Daily Report
Latin America

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Cuba

Further on Visit of SWAPO Leader Nujoma

Meets With Castro

FL1505120788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Comrade Sam Nujoma, president of the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization]. Nujoma noted the broad support he received from the American people when he toured the country to promote the cause of Namibian independence and said he saw a growing opposition to the apartheid regime.

The two leaders also considered the outlook of the recent London quadripartite talks in the search for negotiated solutions to the conflict in the southwest African region. Fidel reiterated Cuba's solidarity with the Namibian cause, Angolan territorial integrity, and peace in the Atlantic strip of the African southern cone.

Tours Isle of Youth

FL1405005888 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO, is participating in many activities in our country. Our correspondents in the Isle of Youth have provided us with the following report:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The SWAPO president visited the Isle of Youth. He was accompanied by Jesus Montane Oropesa, member of the PCC Central Committee, and leaders of the Isle of Youth party and government.

Nujoma spoke with Namibian students at the (Jose Acupaco) and (Hendrick Whitboy) Schools. In his exchange with the students, Nujoma brought them up to date on the situation in Namibia and called on the students to prepare themselves well to contribute to the development of a free and independent Namibia.

During an interview granted to Cuban television, the outstanding African leader said:

[Nujoma, in English with superimposed Spanish translation] We are very happy to learn that our students in this (Hendrick Whitboy) School are studying very hard and are a vanguard setting an example for all schools of the Isle of Youth. [end recording]

Soviet Group Arrives for Intergovernment Meeting

FL1405182188 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] The Soviet delegation to the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Commission arrived early this morning at the Jose Marti International Airport.

Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, is heading the delegation, which also includes the first deputy minister for foreign economic relations and the vice chairman of the USSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee]. Other members of the entourage are secretaries and experts who represent central ministries and organizations of the Soviet State.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, welcomed the delegation at the airport. Rodriguez was also accompanied by Julio Camacho Aguilera, PCC Politburo member and Cuban ambassador to the Soviet Union, and by the Soviet Embassy's (?acting) charge d'affaires in Cuba.

The 18th session of the Intergovernmental Commission, which will be held in Cuba, will begin on Monday, 16 May, and end on 20 May.

Red Cross Committee To Visit Prisons in June

FL1405122588 Havana Radio Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] The International Red Cross Committee will visit Cuban prisons next June at the invitation of the revolutionary government. The committee will meet freely and without witnesses with the prisoners it desires, which will allow it to verify the absolute respect for human rights that exists in those facilities.

Briefs

Trade With Africa Increases

Cuban foreign trade with the African Continent increased 33 percent from 1986 to 1987 in comparison to previous years. Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry officials said in Luanda that they opened 7 offices in 18 months in eastern Africa and they have the opportunity to expand to other areas of the country. [Text] [*FL1305020788 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 May 88*]

Bahamas

Pindling Defends Record in War Against Drugs

FL1305155288 Bridgetown CANA in English 2139 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, May 12, CANA—Bahamas Prime Minister, Sir Lynden Pindling, on Thursday defended his country's record in the war against narcotics, and obliquely suggested the United States was not doing as much as his country in the fight.

Sir Lynden, here for the annual governors' meeting of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), said that 13 per cent of the Bahamas budget is allocated to law enforcement, which includes fighting the drug trade. Penalties for drug trafficking have been toughened, with provisions for forfeiture of proceeds from drugs sales, as well as confiscation of assets of those convicted.

Sir Lynden said that an agreement for the reciprocal enforcement of these measures had been signed with Britain, but an approach to the United States for a similar accord with the Bahamas had met with no response from Washington. Sir Lynden noted that a mutual assistance treaty signed with the U.S. and clearing the way for better exchange of information on suspects and improved surveillance by each other's security services, had been implemented in the Bahamas, with appropriate enabling laws being enacted by Parliament. The treaty is, however, stalled in the U.S. Senate where its ratification is being obstructed by some of the same congressmen who suggested the Bahamas is not doing enough to counter the narcotics trade, Sir Lynden added.

Sir Lynden reiterated Bahamian assertions in region-wide newspaper advertisements this week, that the chain of islands do not produce narcotics, but by reason of geographical accident, offer a transit point for drugs from South American producers to American consumers. He said that the government has been fighting the narcotics trade for the past ten years—initially on its own, but more recently with assistance from some U.S. Government agencies.

He criticised those accusing the Bahamas of official involvement in the trade, pointing to the long democratic traditions which the Bahamas enjoys. Another thing they don't understand is that the Bahamas is a democracy and has been one for over a quarter of a century, Sir Lynden declared. They don't understand that we have political systems that are older than theirs, and have been functioning longer than theirs, and function a good deal better than theirs in many instances, the Bahamian leader added.

Bermuda

British Rejection of Independence Formula Noted

FL1205210588 Bridgetown CANA in English
1652 GMT 12 May 88

[By Martin Gould]

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, May 12, CANA—Britain on Thursday rejected the formula put forward by Bermuda for taking this tiny mid-Atlantic island colony into full independence.

A junior British minister told the government of Premier John Swan that Bermuda will have to break all ties with Britain or have no changes at all. The stance of Timothy Eggar, a junior minister at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, during a two-day visit, was in direct opposition to the wishes of a number of ministers here who have called for independence, but with Britain maintaining diplomatic representation and defence. As long as we have responsibilities for Bermuda, we need the power to enable us to carry out these responsibilities, the British minister declared. That means there will be no further devolution of power from the U.K. Government to Bermuda. Bermuda is already very advanced in the form of self-government, more advanced than any of our other dependent territories.

Eggar's visit ended Thursday and he left ministers here stunned. His message was clear, said Premier Swan. Anything short of full independence is completely out of the question. And Deputy Premier Clarence James said: I am disappointed. I don't think Britain really realises what our problems are. It is now time to pause and reflect on what the future holds.

Eggar was in Bermuda on the second leg of a three-country tour of the Caribbean region. Eggar said Britain would only allow the 56,000-population island to go independent if it were the clear wish of the government and people, but said it would be Britain which would decide if that had been fulfilled. It will be our judgment, not the judgment of the government here, he said. But he said Britain would not seek to influence the decision one way or the other, following a December change in U.K. policy towards its remaining territories in the Caribbean region, Bermuda, Montserrat, the British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos and the Cayman Islands.

This week concerned Bermudians, a splinter group of the ruling United Bermuda Party which is against the policies of Premier Swan, collected 5,000 signatures on a petition opposing independence.

Swan promised last week there would be a referendum before a move to full independence. He is due to go to London in the summer as guest of the Margaret Thatcher government. He proposes taking a team of five members of Parliament from his conservative government to gather information and get permission to speak with the U.S. and Canadian governments on what they could offer an independent Bermuda. Eggar said any such talks would be overseen by British civil servants.

Chief Justice Warns Against Drug Importation

FL1105161688 Bridgetown CANA in English
2151 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, May 9, CANA—Prison will be automatic for all drug importers, Bermuda's chief justice warned offenders on Monday.

It's immediate imprisonment, no suspended sentences and no social inquiry reports and I have already told the magistrates that, said Sir James Astwood. Sir James made his point as he refused permission for a social

inquiry report to be completed on a Jamaican woman, Joyce Carmock, who pleaded guilty to importing cocaine. The case was adjourned until Tuesday for sentencing, after defence lawyer Kim White had his application for the report turned down. I don't see any purpose in a social inquiry report, bearing in mind the attitude of the legislators and what they have decided to do with regard to drugs offenders, said Sir James.

Carmock, 31, a home helper who lives in New York, flew in to Bermuda on February 6 with a condom containing 55.6 grammes of cocaine, said Brian Calhoun, prosecuting. He said the 80 percent pure drug had a street value of [figure illegible]. It was discovered after she had cleared local immigration formalities, said Mr Calhoun.

She indicated she was carrying out instructions to bring cocaine into Bermuda and stay at the Bermudaiana Hotel, where someone would pick up the cocaine and pay her $2,000.

Detective Constable Brian Howard said Carmock, a mother of two, was cooperative with police after her arrest. Sir James described Carmock as a simple courier. He added: There were no surprises, no question of her being misled. She was a straightforward person who took a chance and was caught.

I'm not putting any social workers or foreign agencies to any work for her. These people have made up their minds to make money out of the system.

Haiti

Radio Views Manigat's First 3 Months in Power

FL1305165088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 0100 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] From 12 February 1988 to 12 May 1988: The Celestin/Manigat government is 3 months old.

Today, 12 May, the government of the new Haiti is 3 months old. Three months ago, a (?team) of responsible men, acting against all odds and despite the difficulties of a crucial moment in time, patriotically and nobly took upon themselves the stirring task of changing the course of the nation's destiny.

For 3 months, a new team has responded skillfully to the nation's pressing needs, and, using a rational approach, has been multiplying its efforts to broaden the socioeconomic horizons of the Haitian people and to render less somber the prospects for the future.

The results, both quantitative and qualitative, however unapparent they may be, are nevertheless substantially real. In point of fact, despite the deceitful assertions of vexed people, fundamental ideas have on the whole been modified in this country.

Of course, it is not yet time to draw a final balance. Nevertheless, it is important to protect the great hopes born of the historic event of 7 February 1988, the inauguration of President Leslie Francois Manigat. It behooves us to remind everyone that a new wind has been blowing in this country for the past 3 months. This new wind can be linked to the sociopolitical conception of the current team in power, for whom the greatest priority remains the erection of a democratic, fraternal, and thus more humane society.

It is within the framework of this ideal to be reached that the government has taken its first steps in connection with the state's administrative structures, while waiting for these same initiatives to take place in the minds of the citizens working within these structures. Having inherited a situation that was dramatic in some respects and tragic in others, the government of the new Haiti, led brilliantly by President Leslie Francois Manigat, with Prime Minister Martial Celestin second in command, has proven during these first 3 months its mastery of national realities. Through action, it has asserted its progressive, humanistic vision of the way Haitians should live.

It is truly unfortunate that disappointed people, in keeping with their narrow views, come together to allege the contrary. By so doing, they commit reprehensible acts, under cover of the democratic tolerance practiced by the government, that sow distress among Haitian families.

During these past 3 months, fundamental ideas have been clearly reversed, both politically and economically. The nation's democratic structures have clearly been strengthened, in full view of everyone, and steps have also been taken with a view to the economic emancipation of Haiti and, by extension, of Haitians. When measures that appear drastic and antipopular are taken, it behooves us to try to get to the bottom of things and analyze them with the scientist's serene spirit, in order to perceive the felicitous long-term effects that may lie in them.

In the government's keen struggle against underdevelopment and its consequences, there is no doubt that each citizen's participation remains an unavoidable necessity. This is what is called, in other words, civic duty.

Government Plan To Combat Insecurity Viewed

PDCH Expresses Concern

FL1205223588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 May 88

[Excerpt] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] notes with great uneasiness that the number of murders is shooting up in the capital and provincial towns, creating a climate of insecurity that brings to

mind the atmosphere preceding the massacre of 29 November 1987, while the perpetrators of the said massacre continue to circulate freely in the streets.

The PDCH, which says it is a non-violent political institution, rejects without reservation these barbarous acts that are being repeated and which the victims of a particular small sector's egotistical interests find very significant.

The PDCH continues: We are very uneasy over the executive's decision, announced in the government paper LE PROGRESSISTE HAITIEN, to regiment the neighborhood committees, bringing them under the government's control in order to counter the climate of insecurity—which the chief of state has called a form of opposition to his government—just so that he can justify, as stated by the prime minister, the need to create an institution paralleling the constitutional forces. The PDCH says this reminds one of Francois Duvalier's tontons macoutes and Jean-Claude's SD [Service d'Information—government informants]. [passage omitted]

Committee Restructuring Protested

FL1205224588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Diverse neighborhood committees and other associations have issued press releases protesting the government's apparent decision to restructure neighborhood committees and vigilance brigades to ensure security in Haiti.

Thus the National Haitian People's Cooperative Action Group, Movement of Democratic Organizations, Committee for Vigilance Against Evildoers, and the Veteran Haitian Servicemen's Association, ask all vigilance committees throughout Haiti to not allow themselves to be messed with. They ask the president if he wants to create vigilance committees or a macoute corps.

They say: Vigilance committees: Do not forget the circumstances under which you came into being. And don't forget where you are today, either. We will not work with any government to which we have not accorded legitimacy.

Womens' Group Reacts

FL1205225388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] The Womens' Committee for the Liberation of Haiti asks where this government was on 29 November when they were crushing the neighborhood committees and the vigilance brigades.

The committee adds: In order to be able to prevent the people's election from being held, they brutally dismantled the vigilance brigades. We will not give our blood to help anyone stay in power unless it is we ourselves who put them in power. This is why we are asking all the vigilance brigades and neighborhood committees to not forget what happened.

'Death Squads' Scored

FL1205233888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Fedka, the Federation of Neighborhood Committees and Associations, reports that it does not recognize the government's death squads [brigad lanmo], which are a maneuver aimed at dividing the people's camp and repeating the Jean-Rabel massacre. It is an attempt to divide the people. This is a plan aimed at neutralizing the neighborhood committees, a manuever to get the the macoute corps of the S.O.S-PRAN [S.O.S Security Service-Assembly for National Accord; S.O.S. was initiated after 7 February 1986 but dropped after much public protest; the PRAN political party was comprised mainly of Duvalierists and dissolved itself after an anti-macoute demonstration in November 1986] into the poor, densely-populated neighborhoods. It is an attempt to make the people think that the government and the Army are not the ones responsible for the current insecurity in Haiti.

Campaign Against Religion, Church Suspected

FL1205221688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] For several months now, people have noted pityingly that there is a real campaign being waged against everything connected with the church, the Christian religion, and the doctrine of Jesus Christ which preaches the liberation of Christians.

This campaign first became evident in the organization of TV programs. People were selected to come insult and attack almost everyone and everything related to the church's work. Again last month, they prohibited the Protestants from organizing an Easter rally on the Champs de Mars.

The Masses that used to be carried over national television for people who are home-bound—the ill, handicapped, and elderly—disappeared a long time ago. It is not clear whom this benefits. People today cannot understand the reasons for a series of brutal decisions capable of leading us to fear none-too-rosy days ahead for freedom of religion.

Many people see that this work is being done by simply hammering away at people, brain-washing them, to forcibly impose ideas upon them which have not even been explained. Often, because of circumstances, because of the political situation in the country, certain people find it easy to hold back, to exploit, the masses, making them work for practically nothing or mistreating them when they demand their rights or once they have been thrown into jail. Nevertheless, the majority of Haitians have already shown on several occasions that

they are not going to allow themselves to be manipulated. They will not sell out their soul or deny their faith. They have shown that they intend to pursue, in total freedom, Jesus Christ's doctrine of liberation. The masses are not about to let anyone at all imprison their minds or drag them anywhere without telling them where they are being led.

The work of trying—unsuccessfully—to demolish everything concerning the church and the doctrine of Jesus Christ could render the Christian people allergic to a series of ideas, a series of customs, which nevertheless have many positive aspects. It is risky for the people behind these ideas to let a few individuals mess with their heads and make them look ridiculous.

No one is obligated to follow a particular path and there is no need to try to crush someone because he chooses not to follow a particular direction. Everyone must understand that the doctrine of Jesus Christ is at the basis of everything. Only the doctrine of Jesus Christ can wholly liberate man and nothing and no one can destroy it.

Demolish the temple and I will rebuild it in three days.

Recruiting for Dominican Canefields Discussed
FL1205163988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 11 May 88

[Excerpt] For approximately 3 years now, there has been no contract signed between the Haitian and Dominican Governments for Haitians to go cut sugarcane in the Dominican Republic. However, this has not stopped private recruiters from going out to get peasants on the mountains and then turning them over to Dominican bigshots for cane cutting that brings them millions of dollars.

Thus, in 1986, despite all the demonstrations and protests, Haitians went up into the hills around Jacmel and took the peasants to the Dominicans in small boats through Belle-Anse and Anse-a-Pitre. In fact, one of the smaller boats capsized. All this was done while the authorities looked on.

In 1987, in certain areas such as Carrefour, certain businessmen (?who) obtained money in the Dominican Republic came to buy people in the heart of Port-au-Prince, when they didn't just seize them along the border.

Today, this business [preceding word in English], this recruiting, is being carried out in Riviere Froide and other parts of the country. We interviewed a citizen from the Riviere Froide area who knows more than we do about this secret recruiting that is going on in the middle of the night in Riviere Froide.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Since you live in the area, can you tell us a little about the secret recruiting that we hear is going on there?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes. Well, since it is secret, one doesn't know all the details, but there is indeed recruiting going on. It seems they have sent lots of people out into the remote areas to invite the residents to go to the Dominican Republic. They tell them that they have been there and that it's great, that it is profitable, that they will make good money, that they will come back from the Dominican Republic with money in their pockets, and so forth. They are doing this throughout the backlands: around Grande Riviere, in the area along the Jacmel road, around (Nan Kolin), and in that entire area up there. They go there and invite people to come to be taken to the Dominican Republic.

The people come in the evening. They had already made one trip; the other day, they came back for a second one. However, the section chief in the area intervened, as did certain youths. They opposed the recruiting. They even pressured the driver. They made the driver turn back. All the people who had come down from the hills went back home too. But I am wondering if it's all over now or if it is still going on, since one doesn't know who is organizing it.

[Reporter] Is the driver a person from the Riviere Froide area?

[Speaker] No. He came into the area. He appears to be someone who was simply ordered to come get people and drive them to the border.

[Reporter] Is he in contact with anyone who lives in the area?

[Speaker] With the people who are going to the Dominican Republic, but not with other people who live in the area. If there are people living in the area who are in contact with him, we don't know who they are.

[Reporter] But who went out to do the propagandizing? Someone went out into the hills to talk to the peasants, right?

[Speaker] Yes, there are people whom they sent into the very hills to get the peasants to come down, but we don't know who these people are. Nevertheless, the peasants I met said that yes, there had been people. They told me there were even people who had been to the Dominican Republic who came and told them: I myself was there. Here's what things are like over there. It's OK to go. It will be great, and so forth. So a bunch of people apparently dropped everything they were doing to come here and get the peasants to go, especially since they don't have to pay.

There are also people in Riviere Froide who wanted to go but who didn't.

[Reporter] Last year there was recruiting like this in the Carrefour area. I don't know if this is the same area. Do these peasants have to pay to go? Or do the people who come to get them pay them?

[Speaker] It's totally free. All they have to do is get on the vehicle and they are taken to the border. They say that another vehicle picks them up at the border and takes them to the cane camps.

[Reporter] Do they have to pay to ride the vehicle?

[Speaker] No, they pay nothing at all. It's free.

[Reporter] Do you have any idea how many people have already gone?

[Speaker] No, I don't. The truck was full when it left. It came back to make a second trip, but the trip was frustrated.

[Reporter] And where is the driver now?

[Speaker] The section chief told me he had taken the driver to the police station and that they had sent him back home because he said he had merely been sent to pick the people up and take them to the border, that he apparently didn't know much.

[Reporter] Was this the Carrefour police station?

[Speaker] Yes.

[Reporter] Did you find any of the relatives of the people who went?

[Speaker] No, I don't know, but I can find out. I can get that information in order to find out who left on that first trip.

[Reporter] You could find out if people hear from them and so forth.

[Speaker] Yes. People have told me this is going on all over the country, not just in Riviere Froide. Haitians are pouring into the Dominican Republic from all over Haiti in exactly the same way.

[Reporter] Have people in the area taken measures to stop this?

[Speaker] Yes, some have but there are still people who are waiting for the trucks to come so they can leave.

[Reporter] So, certain people are determined to go.

[Speaker] Yes, some are determined to go because they have been told it's a good deal. They are determined to go anyway.

[Reporter] What kind of people do they take? Young people? Men? Women?

[Speaker] Mostly young men. I saw many young men.

[Reporter] No women?

[Speaker] No. I saw no women, just young men. They do it during the night. Not in the daytime, but at night. They begin assembling at around 2000 or 2100 and it seems they leave around 2330 or 2400, in the middle of the night.

[Reporter] Do you know how many people have already gone?

[Speaker] No, I don't have a figure. I don't know. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Trinidad and Tobago

NAR Member Asked To Explain Criticism

FL1205214488 Bridgetown CANA in English 1537 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 12, CANA—A government backbencher in Parliament has been asked by his constituency to explain remarks he made in a weekend newspaper interview, criticizing key figures in the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR), including Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

Jensen Fox remarks to the SUNDAY EXPRESS included criticisms of Robinson and his deputy Basdeo Panday for permitting differences betweens them to create stability problems for the NAR.

The Port-of-Spain North Constituency, which Fox represents in Parliament, has scheduled a meeting for Thursday to demand an explanation from their MP.

Meanwhile, another group of concerned NAR activists has emerged, led by house speaker, Nizam Mohammed. The main aim of the Mohammed group now is to change the agenda for a NAR National Council meeting Sunday, in an effort to stave off the dismissal of most members of Panday's former United Labour Front (ULF) from the NAR. The ULF was one of four political parties which came together under the NAR to successfully contest the December 1986 general elections. If no changes are made, the National Council meeting on Sunday could well see the NAR removing dissident ULF members from its ranks. Mohammed was himself a member of the ULF.

This flurry of activity is the latest in the continuing rumbling in the NAR which won 33 of the 36 seats in Parliament in the last elections, but which has been hit by a wave of internal dissent. Prime Minister Robinson reshuffled his cabinet twice—the first in November 1987 when he fired outspoken Minister of Works John Humphrey and then again in February, when Panday and two other ministers were dismissed from the Cabinet, Panday losing his job as foreign minister.

An internal party committee had been set up to look at the problems afflicting the NAR, and its report is now in the hands of the party's hierarchy.

De la Madrid Comments on Visit to Belize

PA1205222788 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 May 88

[Report by Vicente Rodriguez]

[Text] President Miguel de la Madrid has returned to Mexico after a short 8-hour visit to Belize. In Belize, the youngest nation on the continent, the Mexican President met with Belizean Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel and delivered an important speech to the parliament. De la Madrid appealed to Latin American nations to unite their efforts to reach the 21st century with better prospects.

Miguel de la Madrid's visit to Belize, according to Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel, is historic. This is an occasion Belizean people will always remember as the moment in history in which, in a violence-ridden region, two countries—a large one and a small one—tried to show the world the meaning of a true friendship.

Esquivel said, on behalf of his compatriots, that Mexico represents to Belizean people the great northern neighbor that has always supported territorial integrity and the Belizean people's right to freely determine their own destiny. This is an occasion—in a world full of distrust, where expansionist policies by some states abound—in which few small countries receive this kind of support from larger neighbors.

During their speeches at the Belize National Assembly, both De la Madrid and Esquivel affirmed their position on the Central American regional conflicts, expressing their support for a negotiated solution of the conflicts and full compliance with the Esquipulas II and Sapoa agreements.

In his speech, De la Madrid noted that insufficient internal savings, deficiencies in productive structures, unjust distribution of revenues, and lack of competitiveness abroad are some of the factors influencing the Central American crisis:

[Begin recording] In view of these tendencies, Belize and Mexico have demanded a more equitable international economic system in which developed nations assume the corresponding role in the reactivation of growth, the solution of the debt problem, and the elimination of trade barriers basically affecting developing countries. [end recording]

At the small room of the Belizean Assembly of Representatives, De la Madrid annnounced that Mexico is designing an overall cooperation plan for the Central American countries that seeks to strengthen and diversify economic, cultural, educational, scientific, and technical cooperation with each nation in the region.

Later, during a news conference, Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda and his Belizean counterpart, Dean Barrow, mentioned the accomplishments attained during this meeting, such as an economic cooperation agreement through which Mexico eliminates tariffs on Belizean products. A line of credit for $5 million was approved so Belize can obtain Mexican products. They also discussed the possibility of establishing assembly plants at their border for export products to the United States and the Caribbean.

Concerning legal matters, the first steps for drafting an extradition treaty between the two nations were taken, and their officials announced they will start joint efforts to combat the cultivation and trafficking of drugs.

Sepulveda said Mexico is interested in participating in the promotion of the Belizean tourism industry. Mexico promises to support any initiatives in this respect. Sepulveda even mentioned the establishment of an air corridor between Cancun and Belize.

The accomplishments attained in health, education, and agriculture were also noted, within the framework of bilateral relations. Concerning the cultural aspect, it was announced that Mexico will donate the most representative works of Mexican literature, and will support the expansion of the Mexico School in Belize. During the news conference, Sepulveda noted that as part of the cooperation plan for the Isthmus, the eighth ratification of the San Jose Pact for oil supply to the region—which will be signed in August—will be included.

Quintero's Cousin Arrested; Weapons Confiscated

FL1305215588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0234 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Guadalajara, Mexico, 12 May (NOTIMEX)—Federal Judicial Police agents today detained in Guadalajara Juan Jose Quintero Payan, cousin of Rafael Caro Quintero, in compliance with an arrest warrant issued by the judge of the Fourth Criminal District of the city of Guadalajara.

At the time of 45-year-old Quintero Payan's arrest, police confiscated several types of high-powered weapons, including an AK-47, an R-15 rifle, a 12- mm automatic rifle, percussion and smoke grenades, and two handguns. Two recent-model vehicles were also confiscated, as well as three of his homes in Guadalajara, Jalisco, as a precautionary measure.

Quintero Payan's capture was made possible thanks to eight drug traffickers who had been captured previously. The police confiscated 470 kg of pure cocaine from the traffickers in Leon, Guanajuato. They said that Quintero Payan was one of the principal leaders of the criminal group.

Investigations revealed that the drug was brought from Colombia and dropped off by airplanes at a clandestine runway located in the Sierra de los Infantes, Guanajuato. It was then to be sent to the United States after stopping in Guadalajara.

Inquiries into this affair continue. Another warrant has been issued by the same judge for the arrest of another member of the drug trafficking band.

Costa Rica

Salvadoran Rebels Present Peace Plan to Arias

PA1405194088 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] This afternoon Costa Rican President Oscar Arias met with two representatives of the Salvadoran guerrillas. The guerrilla representatives gave Arias a copy of a proposal to resume peace talks with the Salvadoran Government.

The guerrilla leaders, who will stay in the country until Tuesday, are Commanders Ana Guadalupe Martinez and Mario Lopez.

The goal of the plan delivered to Arias, which had already been presented to the Salvadoran executive branch, the Legislative Assembly, and the Armed Forces, is the country's pacification.

This plan intends to resume the dialogue between the parties to seek El Salvador's pacification.

The plan delivered by the Salvadoran guerrilla representatives proposes a meeting to lead to a negotiating process between top-level delegations of the FDR and FMLN and the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly, the executive branch, and the Armed Forces.

As a second point in this plan, the guerrillas propose that this meeting be held on 30 and 31 May at a place to be decided by the participating delegations. A third point says that the meeting's agenda should be left open. In any event, the guerrillas request the effort for a solution be continued and that all sectors be included in this effort.

The guerrillas also proposed Salvadoran Archbishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas as the mediator in these talks.

At the end of the meeting with the guerrilla representatives, Arias said that he is only acting as a bridge between the parties. The guerrilla willingness to resume the dialogue gives new hopes in the Central American peace process, especially that of El Salvador.

For this reason, Arias said that he was going to contact President Duarte to inform him about the results of this meeting. Arias added that if the two sides want, they could hold the meeting in our territory, and anything they need for it would be made available to them.

After the meeting with Arias, Commander Lopez said the Honduran Army has entered Salvadoran territory many times. He added that there have been some clashes between the guerrillas and the Honduran Army, and they have resulted in several casualties on both sides.

Lopez added that the Salvadoran Government also uses Honduran territory to establish command posts and communications bases. This involvement, Lopez said, is very dangerous and could make the Central American situation more complex.

El Salvador

FMLN-FDR Presents Peace Proposal to Government

PA1405024188 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 May 88

[FMLN-FDR peace proposal signed by FDR Vice President Eng Eduardo Calles and FMLN General Command member Shafick Jorge Handal; date not given]

[Text] FMLN-FDR peace proposal to the Salvadoran Government.

The FMLN-FDR has presented to the Salvadoran Government a proposal that a meeting at the highest level be held between delegates of the executive and legislative branches and the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the FMLN-FDR. The search for a viable solution in our country must involve the participation of all the nation's sectors. It must be a solution reached by Salvadorans.

Since 1981, the FMLN-FDR has maintained that it is necessary to seek a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict, and over the years it has demonstrated its willingness to contribute to such a solution with good faith and determination. In order to make it possible for us to go from words to deeds, the FMLN-FDR proposes:

A. A meeting be held that will evolve into a process of negotiation at the highest level among delegates of the FMLN-FDR, the Legislative Assembly, the executive branch, and the Armed Forces.

B. The meeting be held on 30 and 31 May at a venue agreed upon by the participating delegations.

C. The meeting be held with an open agenda; however, our front hereby expresses its willingness to discuss and devise specific measures to end the armed conflict, as well as measures to ensure the continuation of this effort to find a solution, and to incorporate all the nation's sectors into the dialogue.

D. Since the Legislative Assembly is the state organ that reflects the new correlation of forces among the participating parties resulting from the elections of 20 March, we propose that a preparatory meeting be held among delegates from our front with deputies from each of the three parties in order to reach an agreement on procedural aspects. We agree to have this preparatory meeting held on a date and place, within or outside the country, agreed upon by the three parties in the Legislative Assembly and that this be communicated to us through Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas.

E. The FMLN-FDR is awaiting an answer to our letter of 5 February addressed to Eng Jose Napoleon Duarte, in which we proposed the reactivation of the two commissions agreed upon in the third dialogue meeting held 5-6 October 1987—the cease-fire commission and the commission on other matters related to Esquipulas II.

F. For both the preparatory meeting and the negotiating dialogue, of 30 and 31 May, we propose that serious consideration be given to the advisability of reactivating those commissions and having the archbishop of San Salvador serve as mediator at all times.

Very truly yours.

[Signed] Eng Eduardo Calles, FDR Vice President, and Commander Shafick Jorge Handal, member of the FMLN General Command

FMLN Commanders Discuss Meeting With Arias

PA1605005288 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 May 88

[Interview with FMLN Commanders Mario Lopez and Ana Guadalupe Martinez, "Commander Maria," by unidentified reporter; place, date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Commander Maria, we would like to know what the results were of the meeting held yesterday with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

[Martinez] It was a positive and cordial meeting. The main topic, of course, was the situation in El Salvador and the possibility of resuming the talks in which he [Arias] played a very active role on the previous occasion. We gave him a copy of a letter we recently sent President Duarte and Vides Casanova and to the three political parties represented in the Legislative Assembly in which we proposed a new meeting for 30 and 31 May. He said he would try to call President Duarte to try to have new talks. We also mentioned how the Honduran Army is getting involved in our conflict. He said he was taking the situation very seriously because it is a new element in the escalation of the conflict. We explained it to him. [Words indistinct] the situation has gotten worse.

[Reporter] Commander Maria, in view of this new FMLN-FDR proposal, which already has the support of Costa Rican President Arias, what repercussions can this have for the meeting called for by Duarte? What is the outlook for these proposals?

[Martinez] As for the meeting called by President Duarte to see if a proposal for a new round of talks is drafted, it was postponed until Tuesday. We believe this meeting has two possible outcomes: either a proposal to find a negotiated solution will be agreed upon; or a proposal seeking to continue the war will be drafted. Those are the possible results of that meeting. We do not see any other option.

[Reporter] Commander Mario Lopez, as Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez said, Honduras' participation in the Salvadoran war was among the issues discussed with President Arias. How was this subject broached?

[Lopez] We spoke with President Arias on the problem that has emerged with the Honduran Army, which has gone from preparing for involvement in El Salvador's internal conflict to an action phase. We told President Arias the dangers this implies. We told him it is a step that tends to regionalize the conflict. We have also informed the UN secretary general, the OAS secretary general, the Nonaligned Movement Coordination Bureau, and other forums of the situation, because we consider Honduran involvement a very dangerous step.

The Salvadoran Army has establish command posts and military communication posts in Honduras as part of its operations against the FMLN, and troops enter our fronts from Honduras or they retreat to Honduran territory. The involvement of Honduran Army troops has already caused clashes that have resulted in deaths on both sides. The FMLN has pointed out that this situation is dangerous and that it is necessary to take measures to try to prevent the conflict from spreading beyond the nation's borders. If this is not accomplished our civil war will cease to be the purely internal conflict that it really is.

We have also been informed that Duarte traveled to Honduras yesterday without informing anyone. We must not rule out the possibility that the level of cooperation between the two Armies is being discussed. [passage omitted]

FMLN's Martinez Comments

PA1505133188 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1501 GMT 14 May 88

[Telephone interview with FMLN Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, member of the FDR-FMLN political and diplomatic commission, in Costa Rica by Luis Cabrera in Managua—live]

[Text] [Cabrera] Good morning, Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez. We would like to know what happened during your meeting with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

[Martinez] Good morning, Luis Cabrera; good morning, Nicaraguan people. We can inform you that we met with President Arias yesterday afternoon. It was a cordial meeting. Naturally, the main topic broached was the issue of peace and the possibility of a resumption of the dialogue in El Salvador.

We talked to President Arias about the new initiative that our fronts have sent to President Duarte, the Legislative Assembly, and General Vides Casanova. In our new initiative, we have suggested another meeting to be held on 30 and 31 May. President Arias has promised to help by talking to President Duarte and others to see if the meeting can be held.

[Cabrera] Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, do you think another meeting with President Jose Napoleon Duarte or his representatives is possible?

[Martinez] Even though the conditions are not appropriate for another meeting—we are experiencing a difficult and complex situation—we do feel there are specific interests that would motivate the political parties to pressure President Duarte for this meeting to be held. We must remember that our presidential elections will be held next year, and the political parties involved in the elections have talked a lot about a negotiated political solution. This is a topic of interest for the Salvadoran people. The political parties need the people's vote, and they are including the dialogue in their campaign speeches. Going from words to actions is very important for the political parties; therefore, they must give specific signs that they are willing to participate in the dialogue and achieve a political solution. This is a positive element because it forces them to participate in the dialogue even though their reasons for participating are tactical electoral reasons and not a search for peace—as in the case of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], the National Conciliation Party [PCN], and even the Christian Democratic Party [PDC].

[Cabrera] Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, you said it was a difficult and complex situation. Some political analysts in El Salvador speak of a very difficult situation within the PDC. We have learned that the PDC is meeting this weekend in El Salvador. What does the FMLN think about this meeting?

[Martinez] At this very moment the PDC convention is being held in San Salvador. PDC presidential candidate Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes left San Jose yesterday. He commented to the press before leaving, telling them that today would be a decisive day for the party. He said that either the problem will be resolved or the party will find itself seriously divided. He predicted the expulsion from the party of Fidel Chavez Mena, another candidate for the presidential nomination, and his followers. Rey Prendes also said that President Duarte, the man who can resolve the party's problems if he supports Rey Prendes as presidential candidate—he doubts Duarte will do this—has a very important role to play if he wants to keep the party united.

In a recent speech, Rey Prendes adopted an anti-U.S. stance. He said he does not have the support of the United States, whereas Abraham Rodriguez and Fidel Chavez Mena do. Therefore, he feels these two men will be the candidates President Duarte will support. This has led us to the conclusion that the PDC is headed for a division and that conditions are not appropriate for an understandindg, because the presidential election is the one element that can resolve their internal problems. The party's rank and file are not happy with what is happening within the PDC, and they are looking for new alternatives. In this sense, the people's alternative, the revolutionary alternative, is winning support.

[Cabrera] Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, a few weeks ago President Jose Napoleon Duarte invited the opposition political parties to a meeting to be held on 15 May—a date later postponed—to draft a so-called peace proposal that would be presented to the FMLN. President Duarte asked the secretaries general of the PCN and ARENA to send top-level representatives to this meeting in which they would primarily seek peace in the country. What do the FMLN and FDR expect of this meeting called by Duarte to draft a proposal to be presented to the FMLN-FDR?

[Martinez] Two things could result from this meeting. First, a practical and realistic proposal; a proposal that will take into consideration the real situation of the country, recognize the FMLN-FDR as a political and military force, and make suggestions that will truly be the beginning of a negotiated political solution to the conflict. However, we know ARENA, the PDC, and the PCN, and we fear their intentions will be basically election oriented. They will want a dialogue but only because the elections are drawing near. We think they will come up with a group of unilateral demands to be made of our fronts, demands such as disarmament. I think they will continue to insist we are living in a democracy in El Salvador and that we must lay down our weapons and become a political force. If that is what they decide, then all we will have is another proposal to continue the war, to continue the conflict, and not a proposal that will seek to resolve the conflict through negotiations. This is what we think of the meeting.

During yesterday's meeting with President Arias, we talked about this meeting. We told him that the meeting could have good results or it could also help them reorganize their forces to continue the war.

[Cabrera] Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, member of the FMLN, parallel to the situation in El Salvador, there is also talk of the possibility of a coup d'etat in El Salvador. Have you heard about this? Whom do you think would back such an action? Who would profit from a coup d'etat in El Salvador?

[Martinez] A coup d'etat is a solution if the political crisis becomes worse or if the vacuum of power expands. They could then seek to fill this void by means of a coup d'etat. Two sectors would immediately benefit from a coup d'etat. The problems within the ruling party and within the Assembly—a problem yet to be resolved—have promoted the rightist sectors to encourage a coup d'etat. However, we cannot rule out the possibility of the

United States' toying with the idea of installing a military regime once they realize a civilian solution is not possible. We cannot rule out the possibility that the United States will be the one to promote a coup d'etat to help resolve the current situation in El Salvador.

[Cabrera] Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, recently the FMLN charged that the Honduran Army and Honduran territory were being used to fight FMLN forces. Could you tell us something about this?

[Martinez] As a matter of fact, we mentioned this to President Arias yesterday. We told him we could no longer call what is happening along the border a coincidence. We told him this is all part of a plan that has been implemented and that calls for cooperation and coordination between the Salvadoran and the Honduran Armies. For the past few months, the Salvadoran Army has been using Honduran territory. Salvadoran soldiers cross into Honduras to advance on our positions from Honduran territory. There are also many Honduran battalions stationed along the border, and they have participated in coordinated operations with the Salvadoran Army. This coordination has always been at the highest level. The high-ranking officers of both Armies coordinate these actions.

We recently presented charges before the OAS and UN secretaries general and before the Nonaligned Movement Coordination Bureau. We have talked with members of the Honduran opposition parties and with the Honduran people to explain to them what is going on. The Honduran people are going to find themselves involved in a conflict that only benefits the few who are promoting this cooperation. Such is the case of the Honduran Army being driven by the United States to participate in this plan. We think a domestic and international campaign to explain what is happening at the border can help put an end to this new method being used along the Honduran-Salvadoran border.

[Cabrera] Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, one last question regarding the political and military situation in El Salvador. Recently the Salvadoran Army launched two big operations in Morazan and Chalatenango Departments. These are not the first operations the Army has launched. How would you describe the political and military situations in El Salvador?

[Nartinez] We have said the root of this political crisis is the Salvadoran Army's lack of military victories. Had the Salvadoran Army been successful and had it been able to do what was expected of it within the plan, their military situation would be a very good one. They said that in 4 years and with 40,000 soldiers they would be able to defeat the few rebels who were roaming the mountains without military or political capacity. They were not able to do this, and it has become quite evident that the FMLN is a nationwide political and military force.

The political aspect of the plan was the responsibility of the PDC, and it has been affected because the Army has not been successful. The PDC's current problems are not a coincidence. They are the result of the overall failure of the counterinsurgency plan. This has given us the moral strength to say we are presently living our best political and military moment.

The most recent Army operations have received a lot of publicity. They deployed 5,000 soldiers to Chalatenango and another 5,000 to Morazan and have presented this operation as the largest operation in recent times. Their goal was to destabilize the largest body of the FMLN forces located in those regions, thus reducing the FMLN's offensive capacity. However, it did not work out this way.

A few days ago, the FMLN launched a very important operation in Chalatenango Department. Despite the Army's 5,000 soldiers and their counterinsurgency operation, the FMLN attacked the 5 November Dam. They tried to protect strategic targets and keep us from carrying out our military operations during this period of political crisis; however, they failed.

A military victory would boost the soldiers morale; however, the Army is having problems, and we know that within the Army there are soldiers who are questioning what is happening. They know they are not winning; they know they are losing the battle. This must have serious effects on their morale.

[Cabrera] We wish to thank Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez for her statements. We will let her send greetings on behalf of the Salvadoran rebels to the Nicaraguan people.

[Martinez] Luis, thank you very much for this opportunity to inform the people of Nicaragua and the Salvadorans who live in Nicaragua as refugees and residents. I wish to say we are optimistic regarding the situation in the country. Never before, in the past 8 years, has the crisis of the U.S. plan been so evident. We feel the situation will soon change and be favorable for our people's interests.

[Cabrera] Thank you, Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, from Costa Rica; this was a direct relay through Radio Sandino.

Reaction to FMLN Attack on 5 November Dam

Defense Ministry Comments

PA1405044588 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 12 May 88 p 1

[Text] Today, the Salvadoran Defense Ministry reported that "the terrorists who yesterday attacked the 5 November Dam did not penetrate the installations, and the damage sustained was caused by mortar shells the terrorists fired from several points near the dam."

According to the official report released this morning, the attack resulted in the deaths of eight soldiers of the dam garrison, including a National Police member who tried to deactivate an explosive device. In addition, 13 others were wounded and taken to the military hospital in San Salvador. The ministry also reported that nine of the subversives who participated in the attack were killed. Local residents are said to report that when the rebels fled the area, they took with them a large number of wounded subversives.

The Defense Ministry also stated that the bodies of some of the extremists who were killed during the attack were thrown into the Lempa River by their companions after removing the uniforms and equipment from their bodies.

The military report said that in their flight, the extremists left behind seven M-16 rifles and a considerable amount of explosives and other materiels with which they intended to destroy the dam if they succeeded in taking it. The attackers reportedly were repelled by troops of Military Detachment No 2 stationed at Sensuntepeque, Cabanas Department. Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission technicians will repair the damage immediately.

The clandestine radio station Radio Farabundo Marti, reporting on the attack on the dam, said the operation started at 0045 yesterday and "consisted of the occupation of the installations, where a large number of the Military Detachment No 2 troops were annihilated." The radio station added that the rebels inflicted 90 casualties, dead and wounded, on the government forces and seized a 60-mm mortar, an RPC-77 radio set, and other military supplies. The station further said an Army battalion stationed 2 km from the dam failed to assist the forces under attack and that this "indicates the government troops' low morale."

Radio Farabundo Marti added that "after the guerrillas entered the installation, they used the elevator to get down to the dam's underground equipment and sabotaged five large transformers."

Venceremos Comments

PA1305222988 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] The 5 November Dam: A Strategic Objective

On 14 April, the Army High Command sent 4,800 troops, artillery weapons, and Air Force units to Chalatenango. At that time, Colonel Mauricio AIDS [as heard] Vargas said that the operation was to prevent an attack on the most important hydroelectric plants along the Lempa River.

Col Vargas created expectations when he said that soon there would be surprises in Chalatenango.

In the eastern region, Colonel Ponce, not to be left behind in the competition in which Army military commanders have engaged, followed the example of Somozist Colonel Bermudez by placing small, scared patrols in Honduran territory to carry out—with more pain than glory—incursions in northern Morazan. Since he had no military achievement from that "Perquin-I"—or "Foolish-I," as it is already known—operation, Col Ponce came up with a ridiculous story that two guerrilla commanders had died in combat. The two commanders, however, arose from death, thus ridiculing Ponce. Ponce has said nothing more to the media since then.

Meanwhile, the Chalatenango operations continued to take its toll of casualties among the Duarte troops. The High Command knew we had plans to attack the garrisons and strategic objectives. It was logical to think that the hydroelectric dams were among our objectives. Therefore, the Army was constantly guarding the 5 November Dam. In addition to the troops guarding the installations, the Army kept two battalions from Military Detachments Nos 1 and 2 in the surrounding area.

The U.S. advisers had designed a [words indistinct] mine fields, floodlights, and reinforced concrete walls that would allegedly make it impossible for any military force to attack the hydroelectric central. The U.S. colonels who are directing the low-intensity war in El Salvador again made the mistake of underestimating the capabilities, creativity, and boldness of the Salvadoran people.

At 0045 on 11 May, FMLN battalions composed of various groups from our revolutionary army began the operation. After 30 minutes of combat, our guerrilla forces had assaulted and taken over the installations. Our sappers placed explosive charges in the huge transformers of the electricity generation system, the control room, workshops, and other rooms. Simultaneously, armed support units attacked with revolutionary rifle fire the J.R. Battalion of Military Detachment No 2 of Sensuntepeque, which was close to the 5 November Dam and in charge of protecting it.

Meanwhile, Battalion 2 of Military Detachment No 1, which was stationed in Arcatao—also in charge of protecting the dam—ran to take cover at the (Zacalapa) military base in Honduras. While the FMLN units were [words indistinct] garrison that was guarding the installations, there was no reaction from any of the battalions or air units that were in the vicinity, or from the High Command. By the time General Bustillo's helicopters were able to land near the dam, they were in time to begin a funeral cortege to the Armed Forces funeral parlor and to take the wounded to the military hospitals in San Salvador, Sensuntepeque, and Chalatenango. [14-second break in reception] within the framework of the military operation in Chalatenango. Actually, he is the one who was surprised when his old wife woke him up early on 11 May to announce the High Command was calling to give him the bad news.

During its ill-fated operations from 14 April to 10 May, the Army had sustained considerable casualties, 230, in Chalatenango—to which we must now add the 100 casualties the FMLN inflicted on the Armed Forces at the 5 November Dam. In other words, the Army sustained 330 casualties during the days of these ill-fated High Command operations.

The most important aspect of this victory is the political-military blow we dealt on the regime in the midst of the dramatic crisis of a power vacuum. The blow against the puppet High Command will worsen their internal conflicts. Complaints will be raised against Vargas, a military officer who speaks incoherently about his incoherent military plans. Complaints will be raised against Ponce, who sends troops into Honduras to justify attacking FMLN territories, when the war is taking place just a few kilometers from vital areas and cities. There will be more contradictions; there will be complaints against Colonel Campos Anaya over the failure of [words indistinct]. There will be complaints against General Golcher, who is unable to halt guerrilla actions in the capital and its surroundings.

There will be more contradictions; there will be protests by the petty politicians against the High Command. There will be complaints by the oligarchy against the useless colonels. The High Command will also complain to the political parties over the Assembly crisis. The military officers will complain to the petty politicians over the division within the political parties and over the inability of the politicians to cover up the genocide, because the crisis in the political field nourishes the demoralization among the military. In addition, the failures of the military, such as the 5 November Dam attack, demoralizes the petty politicians of the two legislative assemblies [as heard].

FMLN Communique

PA1405215988 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 May 88

[Communique issued by the FMLN General Command; no date or place given]

[Text] Communique No 3 from the FMLN General Command on the "With Unity and Heroism, the Salvadoran People March Unstoppably Toward the Dictatorship's Defeat Revolutionary" Operation. The operation consisted of the attack on, takeover, and sabotage of the 5 November Hydroelectric Dam.

We report the following to our people:

1. The sabotage carried out deep inside the hydroelectric dam's structure and around the dam consisted of the destruction of five large transformers, one control room, one mechanical shop, two buildings, and one vehicle, as well as damage to the tower system and one elevator. The sabotage immediately put the 5 November Dam out of service, which represents a 45-percent cut in the country's overall energy production. The rationing has affected even the bourgeoisie's residences. Therefore, the revolutionary operation's main goal was fully attained.

2. The puppet Army sustained 123 casualties during the 11 May military maneuver, in which the main action was the takeover and sabotage of the 5 November Dam. Our forces have confirmed the 123 casualties, yet the Duartist high command has tried to minimize the strategic blow dealt by the FMLN by covering up its casualties and misinforming our people and the world about the real results attained by this revolutionary action.

Referring to this, we report to our people and the dead soldiers' relatives that as part of the maneuver to cover up the casualties the top-level military officers ordered a large number of dead soldiers thrown into the Lempa River. This proves once more the puppet Armed Forces commanders' irresponsibility and contempt for their own troops and relatives.

3. The following war materiel was seized at the dam: 14 M-16 rifles, 1 60-mm mortar, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, 1 PRC-77 military communications radio, 5 hand grenades, 5 60-mm mortar rounds, 14 complete basic kits of military equipment and clothing, and 15 military backpacks. Our units also destroyed two 81-mm mortars. The war materiel has been turned over to our revolutionary fighters, who are prepared for new actions to wear out and annihilate the puppet Army.

4. Likewise, we want to report that Comrades Chico, Montiel, Osmin, Uriel, Alexander, and Walter died heroically while carrying out this revolutionary action. The FMLN General Command salutes the heroic fighters who generously sacrificed themselves for the people's liberation. Their blood has been shed during the course of the people's revolutionary war, but their blood has not been shed in vain.

Six of the people's fighters have died on this occasion, but thousands of fighters rise throughout the country, prepared to follow their example and struggle until we attain our people's definite victory. Comrades Chico, Montiel, Osmin, Uriel, Alexander, and Walter, we swear we will win

[Signed] FMLN General Command: Commander Joaquin Villalobos, Commander Roberto Roca, Commander Ferman Cienfuegos, Commander Shafick Jorge Handal, and Commander Leonel Gonzalez.

Christian Democrats Hold Two Conventions

PA1505234688 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0517 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] San Salvador, 14 May (REUTER)—The division within the Salvadoran ruling party widened today with the holding of two conventions supporting two different party leaders as candidates for the 1989 presidential elections.

According to Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, vice president and secretary general of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the fact that two conventions were held and agreements reached at each of them is proof of "a real division."

However, Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, PDC leader and one of the candidates for president, feels that the situation "is not alarming," and even though he admitted that "it creates a serious problem," he said he is convinced the PDC will unite "because we cannot go to the upcoming elections divided."

The 20 March elections for mayors and deputies represented a defeat for the ruling party and a victory for the rightist sectors united within the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte is a member of the PDC.

Important decisions were made at both conventions. At one of the conventions, it was agreed to withdraw Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes' presidential nomination. At the other convention, the political committee was reorganized and three of its members, including current Secretary General Rodolfo Castillo Claramount and presidential nominee Fidel Chavez Mena, were removed.

Castillo Removed From Post

PA1505015988 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party convention is currently underway at the party headquarters in San Salvador. At noon today, the members unanimously voted to remove Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount from the office of secretary general. Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, former president of the Legislative Assembly, was appointed as his replacement. Morales Ehrlich's appointment was ratified by the plenum at the request of Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, PDC presidential candidate for the 1989 elections.

FMLN-FDR Letter Calls for OAS Support

PA1605023888 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 15 May 88

["Text" of "open letter" from the FMLN-FDR to OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares; dated 12 May]

[Text] His Excellency Joao Baena Soares, OAS secretary general:

In view of the seriousness of the Honduran Army's current direct involvement in El Salvador's internal conflict, the FMLN has felt it should address you as OAS secretary general to outline the following:

1. For several years, as part of the U.S. interventionist policy in Central America, military preparations have been made in Honduras to intervene in El Salvador's civil war. On the Honduran side of the border, military bases have been strengthened, logistical resources have been stockpiled, roads and airstrips—such as the ones in Concepcion—have been built, military maneuvers have taken place, and troops have pressured Salvadoran refugees to leave their camps. There have already been a significant number of refugees wounded, kidnapped, and killed. Military facilities have been established to support the Salvadoran Army. Reconnaissance flights are conducted over our territory, supply lines have been established, and the conditions have been created for the participation of the U.S. Army in our conflict. In addition to this, the Honduran Army has been preparing to intervene militarily. Many military exercises have already taken place with that purpose in mind.

The FMLN has expressed its concerns on this to President Jose Azcona's government and the Honduran Congress and Armed Forces, but so far we have not received any reply.

Meanwhile, in the past few months, the Honduran Armed Forces have gone from a stage of preparation to a more direct involvement by cooperating with the Salvadoran Army against the FMLN. Honduran territory is being used for military operations and communication bases and as a point for the insertion and withdrawal of Salvadoran Army units.

2. This increased intervention, which increases the internal conflict in El Salvador, threatens to extend the conflict outside its borders. This is a threat that implies blocking the efforts being made for detente in our region. The FMLN feels the participation of the OAS is necessary and urgent to avoid this intensification of the war in Central America, which would annul the efforts for regional peace made by the Contadora and Support Groups, the Esquipulas peace efforts, and the Sapoa agreement in Nicaragua. The FMLN-FDR alliance has expressed its willingness to contribute to a political resolution of the conflict through negotiation and dialogue. We feel a political solution would greatly contribute to detente in Central America and benefit world peace. A new initiative in this regard was presented on 10 May to the president, Legislative Assembly, and Armed Forces of El Salvador. Attaining a negotiated solution undoubtedly requires that the international community prevent the intensification of foreign intervention and support a dialogue so Salvadorans can resolve our conflict by ourselves. We ask you to encourage consultations among OAS member countries to generate initiatives and actions to prevent the escalation of the Salvadoran conflict with the involvement of the Honduran Army and to help Salvadorans negotiate by ourselves the political solutions to our conflict. We express our willingness to cooperate in those efforts and we ask that you receive delegates from our two fronts. We await your reply at our political-diplomatic commission offices in Mexico: Benjamin Franklin, 3d Floor, Condesa neighborhood [colonia], Mexico City, telephone No 516-1558.

The FMLN expresses to you its appreciation for your attention to this letter.

El Salvador, 12 May 1988

Official on Expulsion of PRAVDA Journalist

PA1305215188 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Today the Soviet news agency TASS described the detention of Soviet Correspondent Yuriy Stronev as an arbitrary action by the Salvadoran Government.

According to TASS, Yuriy Stronev arrived in San Salvador with government authorization to report on the Salvadoran situation. Stronev, who is a PRAVDA correspondent, was arrested yesterday near his hotel in San Salvador by four unidentified men, who forced him to leave the country immediately. The report added that the 33-year-old Soviet journalist is now in Guatemala.

General Immigrations Director Jose Daniel Vega reported that Soviet journalist Yuriy Stronev, who arrived in our country to report on the current situation, was deported to Guatemala because of [words indistinct] in the information he was asked to submit.

Vega denied that Soviet journalist Stronev was mistreated. He also explained the reasons for canceling his authorization to stay in our country.

[Begin recording] [Vega] He said he was a journalist for PRAVDA and THE NEW YORK TIMES. Based on that information, he was allowed to enter the country. However, we later found out that he does not work for THE NEW YORK TIMES. The fact that he lied to our immigrations authorities at the airport created doubts as to whether he had come to El Salvador as a journalist. Therefore, we informed him yesterday that his authorization to remain in El Salvador had been canceled, and we invited him to leave the country.

[Reporter] It has been said that he was forced to leave the country by individuals who did not identify themselves. Is that true?

[Vega] No, that is not true. Our agents arrived at the Camino Real Hotel. He was asked to go down to the manager's office, where he was informed of his situation. He also paid his hotel bill, as requested by the manager. From there, he was accompanied by our agents, who fully identified themselves.

[Reporter] However, the Soviet news agency TASS has complained about the treatment he received. What can you say about that?

[Vega] No, those reports are false. Maybe the journalist said so in his report. However, there are witnesses who can attest that he was treated courteously while in the manager's office at the Camino Real Hotel. [end recording]

Vega said El Salvador does not question anyone's entrance into the country. Regarding citizens from behind the Iron Curtain, Vega said that the only additional immigration requirement is that they must obtain a visa, which is granted by the consul in the city where the visa is requested.

Guatemala

Three Army Officers Named in Coup Attempt

PA1305194888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Guatemalan Army identified three out of the seven officers involved in the foiled coup d'etat on 11 May.

Colonels Gustavo Adolfo Gustavo Padilla and Gustavo Adolfo Cifuentes, subcommanders of the Retalhuleu and the Jutiapa military bases, respectively, are being held under arrest at the Justo Rufino Barrios General Headquarters.

The third officer was as identified Major Manuel Maria Gordillo Martinez, S-3 (training officer) at the Retalhuleu base. His own brother, Colonel Francisco Luis Gordillo Martinez (retired), turned him in.

Francisco Luis Gordillo Martinez was one of the leaders of the coup against President Fernando Romeo Lucas on 23 March 1982. He is currently leading the Emerging Movement of Harmony political party. He is also a member of the National Reconciliation Commission (CRN), representing the opposition parties.

As he turned in his brother so "he can prove his innocence," Gordillo Martinez said that "when the military uprising occurred, Manuel Maria was on vacation because of the death of his son, therefore, he cannot be accused of participating."

Gordillo Martinez stated that because his brother is at General Headquarters, the accused officer "is under investigation, not necessarily under arrest." Gordillo Martinez also denied that his brother belongs to a clandestine group of opposition officers who call themselves "Mountain Officers" (ODEM).

The ODEM, which according to the government consists of civilians, stated in a communique secretly sent to the news media that the attempt "was a sign of the unhappiness that exists in the military ranks." It added that this is a "warning" to the government to stop its policy of rapprochement with Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Cols Padilla and Cifuentes, who had remained at their respective bases, yesterday were tranferred to the Justo Rufino Barrios General Headquarters.

Troops loyal to the government neutralized, without a fight, the uprising lead by the deputy commanders on the military bases at Jutiapa, in the east, and of Retalhuleu, in the south.

An officer of the Retalhluleu base who participated in the rebellion against the government and who asked to remain anonymous, told newspaper EL GRAFICO that "it was a serious action, not just a show, since we want things to change in Guatemala."

However, according to President Vinicio Cerezo and the Army's top command, the rebellion was merely "an act of indiscipline" which "reflects an unhappiness in the military ranks upon which we must ponder and reflect."

Attorney General Mario Palencia Lainfiesta said that his office will be the "formal prosecutor" of the officers and civilians who may be involved in the foiled coup. However, he said that he still does not have the file.

He noted that the judges will have to label the crime as a "rebellion, conspiracy, or an attack on the institutionality of the country." This is so because "by attempting to violate the institutional order, public order was affected. There was a conspiracy. And, there is disobedience to the Army's top command." Therefore, this action "affects the stability of the state."

Palencia Lainfiesta noted that if the Attorney General's Office does not receive the formal accusation by the Defense Ministry, it will instruct the police to investigate the facts.

The attorney general added that "since the Army states that civilians lent their vehicles to transport the rebel troops, that means that an investigation process already exists."

Unconfirmed reports stated that there are four more colonels "under investigation." This raises the number of officers involved to seven and to at least five still unidentified civilians.

Cerezo said that the "true leaders of this incident have not been arrested yet because the investigation is continuing."

Army Reportedly Replaces Base Commander

PA1505231488 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0548 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 May (REUTER)—The first changes of command at military bases in Guatemala's interior in the wake of the attempted coup took place yesterday, according to today's edition of PRENSA LIBRE newspaper.

A report from the paper's correspondent in Chiquimula, 166 km east of the capital, states that Colonel Carlos Enrique Pineda has taken command of Military Zone No 8, based in that city, replacing Colonel Byron Disrael Lima Estrada.

Lima Estrada was transferred to the Justo Rufino Barrios General Headquarters in Guatemala City, where the officers accused of taking part in Wednesday's coup are being held.

The second in command, Colonel Pedro Vidal Cifuentes, was also transferred, in his case to the Army Adjutant General's Office. He was replaced by Colonel Guillermo Pineda Hidalgo.

The PRENSA LIBRE report states that Army Chief of Staff General Manuel Antonio Callejas y Callejas was present at the implementation of these changes, which were ordered by the High Command.

Comparison of Cerezo Speech on Failed Coup

Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 11 May carries a recording of President Vinicio Cerezo's speech on 11 May at a Rotary Club luncheon in Guatemala City. The Teleonce version has been compared with the Radio Fabulosa version published in the 12 May Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 13-14, allowing for the following clarifications and fills:

page 13, column two, paragraph six, line one, Teleonce version reads: [Text] This government had enjoyed a prolonged period of stability and for some time now some people—some in good faith, others perhaps in bad faith, and others plainly and simply expressing their disagreeement with the democratic system—have been trying... (clearing queried words, supplying indistinct words, rewording)

page 13, column two, last paragraph, line two, Teleonce version reads: ...an act of hierarchical rebelliousness. Two or... (supplying indistinct word)

page 13, column two, last paragraph, line six, Teleonce version reads: ...suggest a discussion. We sent delegates. They talked... (clearing queried words)

page 13, column two, last paragraph, line eight, Teleonce version reads: ...suggest this discussion, that this should be resolved through other mechanisms. Thanks... (supplying indistinct words)

page 14, column one, paragraph two, line four, Teleonce version reads: ...was to create the impression that there was... (clearing queried words)

page 14, column one, paragraph two, last line, Teleonce version reads: ...go beyond this.

Herein lies the problem, and it must... (rewording)

page 14, column one, paragraph three, line five, Teleonce version reads: ...always scared us in Guatemala, like the ghost of communism, which is not a nonexistent ghost, as a matter of fact. That is, the guerrillas suggested... (supplying indistinct words)

page 14, column one, paragraph four, line four, Teleonce version reads: ...to speak without adequate objectivity. This does not... (supplying indistinct words)

page 14, column two, paragraph two, line one, Teleonce version reads: ...had problems, but there is no crisis because the democratic governments do not have crises. What all truly democratic governments have are problems which can be overcome if they are faced with the conviction, calm, and objectivity that they deserve. I would even add that we should have a relatively flexible attitude toward an act of indiscipline by some people who have been led by a constant barrage of information aimed at causing negative reactions among the Guatemalans in a democratic process which has been clear as a whistle and absolutely open so that everyone can express their differences and disagreements. The democratic process is of course led by a government which knows in which direction it wants to go and whose only mistake has perhaps been to not clearly explain things so that everyone can have confidence and understand what we are trying to do in this historic moment and in the future, if God and the Guatemalan people permit us to continue in the government of the Republic.

Today something happened.... (clearing queried word, supplying indistinct words, rewording)

Guerrilla Mine Kills Eight Army Engineers

PA1605010288 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0609 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 May (REUTER)—Today the military reported that eight members of the Guatemalan Army's Corps of Engineers were killed and seven injured when a truck they were in hit a mine planted by guerrillas.

An Army report states that the explosion destroyed the truck on Friday near Playa Grande, 300 km northwest of the capital.

The engineers had been building a road in the area.

The leftist guerrillas have been fighting in Guatemala since the early sixties.

A tentative date late this month has been set to start peace talks between the rebels and the government in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Honduras

President Duarte Arrives 'Unexpectedly'

PA1305231788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2035 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 13 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte arrived unexpectedly in San Pedro Sula, 240 km north of this capital, and will meet tomorrow with Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo.

A presidential palace spokesman told ACAN-EFE that Duarte's visit to Honduras is not official and that both presidents will meet in San Pedro Sula, where Duarte was invited to preside over the closing ceremony of an agriculture and cattle exhibit that Azcona opened last week.

Both rulers will discuss matters of common interest such as the Esquipulas II agreements and the situation of the Salvadoran refugees in western Honduras, among other issues.

No announcement has been made as to the date of Duarte's return to El Salvador or whether he has plans to visit another country.

Nicaragua

YATAMA, Government End 5 Days of Talks

PA1405151588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 May 88

[Excerpt] Five days of talks between the constitutional Government of Nicaragua and YATAMA [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians and Creole groups organization], headed by Brooklyn Rivera and Steadman Fagoth, ended at 0430 today at the Intercontinental Hotel in Managua.

It was announced that no document was signed at the end of these 5 days of talks, but negotiations will continue in the next few days. The YATAMA organization will air its views on the autonomy law at the upcoming meeting that will also take place in Managua.

After the talks ended at dawn today, we obtained statements by guerrilla Commander Lumberto Campbell, FSLN coordinator in our country's Atlantic region. Campbell and Subcommander Jose Gonzalez, of the autonomous North Atlantic region, commented on the topics discussed during these 5 days of talks that began on 9 May at the Intercontinental Hotel in Managua. Here are the statements of Commander Lumberto Campbell at the end of 5 days of talks and negotiations between the constitutional Government of Nicaragua and the YATAMA organization:

[Begin Campbell recording] In these 5 days of negotiations with the YATAMA organization, the government delegation, which was headed by Commander Tomas Borge, made great efforts to reach agreements to end conflicts in the Atlantic Coast, especially with this sector of YATAMA.

I must point out that many YATAMA commanders have already embraced the peace efforts of the people of the Atlantic coast. About 90 percent of their forces have already signed a final cease-fire agreement with our revolutionary government to involve all sectors in that area of our country [words indistinct] to get Brooklyn Rivera to join the effort and example of combatants in this region.

We failed to agree on a definitive cease-fire with Brooklyn Rivera. Nevertheless, this is a very important step to achieving definitive peace in the Atlantic coast, which is an aspiration of all people on the Atlantic coast. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Honduran Soldiers Capture RN's 'Fernando'

PA1305232688 Paris AFP in Spanish 2350 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 May (AFP)—Today news correspondents at the Nicaraguan border reported that Honduran Army troops have captured Commander "Fernando" (Diogenes Hernandez), who heads the dissident Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) troops. As a result of this action, one rebel was killed and two were wounded.

Reports leaked by rebel sources linked to the official contra group note that Commander "Fernando" was captured when he was passing by the La Union border post heading toward the [words indistinct] junction, early Tuesday morning.

A Honduran Army patrol that had orders to not allow vehicles to pass was guarding the La Union post on the outskirts of Capire when the rebel leader, who was going toward Yamales, arrived accompanied by several followers.

Apparently, when Hernandez received the order to halt, he placed his vehicle in reverse and tried to escape, but Honduran troops opened fire on the rebel group.

During the shootout, one rebel was killed, two were seriously wounded, and "Fernando" was captured by Honduran troops.

The Honduran Armed Forces have not confirmed or denied the arrest. However, rebel sources verified that "Fernando" will be deported from Honduras shortly, like the other seven contra leaders who rebelled against RN commanding officer Colonel Enrique Bermudez.

Commander "Fernando" heads approximately 4,000 contra fighters who rebelled against Bermudez in Yamales, 30 km from the Nicaraguan border, on Monday.

However, forces loyal to Bermudez and headed by Commander Mike Lima are also concentrated near Las Vegas and La Guangolona hill, an area on the Nicaraguan border approximately 40 km from Yamales.

According to peasants in the border area, Bermudez' forces have been attacking the dissident troops in the past few days. The dissident forces are now under the command of "Tiro al Blanco," "Ivan," "Dimas," "Solin," "Cornelio," and other commanders and squad leaders who also rebelled against Bermudez and his closest allies, all former Somozist National Guard officers.

People close to Bermudez have told the Tegucigalpa media that now that the main rebel leader has been captured and is about to be deported, Col Bermudez plans to visit Yamales on Friday.

During a telephone conversation with San Pedro Sula newsmen, Col Bermudez himself admitted that "Fernando" and other contra leaders "have the loyalty" of the troops that rebelled in Yamales, but he also said he was sure that "once they understand the situation they will change their position."

Bermudez stated to LA PRENSA newspaper that the rebel troops "are serving Sandinist interests."

Bermudez warned that he "could resort to force" to "crush the dissidents," but he added that he and the RN Political Directorate members are sure they will find a peaceful solution to the conflict within a few hours.

Despite the fact that the Honduran Government issued a statement on Tuesday stating that they would not allow contra negotiations in Honduran territory, Col Bermudez will tour the contra camps in Yamales and Capire accompanied by RN Directorate members Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and Azucena Ferrey.

Government Protests Jailing

PA1305192188 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Nicaragua has sent a new protest note to the Honduran Government over the detention and internment at a military base in that country of Diogenes Hernandez, known as Commander Fernando, a signatory of the Sapoa accords.

Basing its arguments on the Vienna Convention, Nicaragua requested consular access to the place where he has been interned as prisoner to learn about the situation of Fernando, or Diogenes Hernandez.

In the protest note, Nicaragua points out that this Honduran measure violates the Sapoa accords because actions are being taken against a signatory of such accords.

The Honduran press such as LA PRENSA and U.S. papers such as THE PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER have noted that Honduran authorities arrested Fernando and took him to a military base in that country for opposing former Somozist Guard Colonel Enrique Bermudez, who has maintained a warmongering position toward the Sapoa accords. According to reports, Honduras has sided with Col Bermudez' warmongering group.

In the next few hours, Honduran territory could be site of violent clashes among the Somozist mercenary forces. Reports out of Tegucigalpa state that Juan Ramon Rivas Moreno, alias El Quiche, who heads an approximately 1,000-man group and is loyal to Col Enrique Bermudez Varela, will launch an operation in Yamales, El Paraiso Department, to kick out those who support Fernando. It was confirmed that Fernando, or Diogenes Hernandez, was captured by Honduran authorities during an action that left one contra dead and two seriously wounded. It was reported that forces loyal to Fernando are now being headed by Tiro al Blanco and Jorge and are stationed at the FDN headquarters.

Meanwhile, it was also reported that the Jorge Salazar counterrevolutionary command in Nicaraguan territory, which is under Ramiro, joined Rigoberto and Fernando in demanding the dismissal of former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez.

H. Ortega on Contra Split, Negotiations

PA1505185788 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1715 GMT on 14 May broadcasts a live report from Esteli by Mario Zelaya, who reports on "a ceremony to promote 10 lieutenant colonels to colonels held at the Facundo Picado Military Training Center in Santa Ana, Pueblo Nuevo, in Region 1 in Las Segovias, where Nicaraguan Defense Minister Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra gave an important speech." Zelaya notes that he will "present part of Ortega's speech."

Ortega says: "Why does the U.S. Government headed by Ronald Reagan continue to be determined to keep the mercenary forces—which have been strategically defeated by those rifles that you, young combatants, are carrying—afloat? Why is Ronald Reagan bent on saving this mercenary leadership... [corrects himself] this mercenary force by imposing the warmongering policy of Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez on the mercenary leadership? Why is Reagan still bent on all this?

"Our people do not want war. Our government took over power on 19 July 1979 because we were practically a government up in arms. We seized power to build a new Nicaragua and consolidate a final peace for the heroic Nicaraguan people, who have had no peace since the last century, since 1856.

"Our people have had no peace because it has been the Yankees who have snatched away peace from us and have imposed war, suffering, bloodshed, backwardness, and poverty on us.

"From 1856, when the Yankee filibusters intervened in our nation, and from 1909 up to 1934, when our people were the target of several Yankee aggressions and direct interventions, from those years in the beginning of this century Nicaragua had more than 100,000 victims, including dead, wounded, orphans, refugees, exiles, and missing people. This was caused by the Yankee aggression that our nation has been suffering."

At 2240 GMT, Zelaya says he is back in the main studios with another report on Ortega's speech at the Facundo Picado Military Training Center. Zelaya notes that on behalf of the Nicaraguan constitutional government, Ortega said that the government is willing to extend the suspension of offensive operations for another 30 days. Zelaya adds that the defense minister recalled that the halt on offensive operations will end on 30 May.

Zelaya notes that Ortega said the Nicaraguan Government is willing to reach a final agreement. However, Ortega adds that if the counterrevolution rejects this extension, Sandino's cubs and our people are all ready to begin big actions, actions never seen before in the history of this patriotic, national, and revolutionary war that the mercenary forces have been waging against Nicaragua.

Zelaya says Ortega noted that the so-called counterrevolutionary leadership should continue to strengthen the step they took when they vowed in Sapoa to seek a final cease-fire. We hope, Ortega said, that the counterrevolutionary leaders will push aside the warmongering policy promoted by Enrique Bermudez.

Ortega says: "They are still maintaining their military presence. Let us not forget that the mercenary forces have been gathering in populated areas on the border with Honduras, where, if the war continues, they can [words indistinct] continue provocations so our Army will clash with the Honduran Army to create conditions for a war with Honduras so they can intervene against Nicaragua.

"I want to end this significant event by noting that our government will continue making every possible effort to prevent the failure of the process for peace that was begun in Sapoa. However, the government warns our people that as long as final peace is not achieved, they must continue to make this revolution's armed defense a priority, just as they have been doing until now. Consequently, they must

continue to make our active participation in the battlefields a priority if the war continues. This must be done so we can achieve through arms what we have been unable to attain through the negotiating table."

Zelaya then adds that the defense minister also reported today that counterrevolutionary units headed by Franklin, El Quiche, and Enrique Bermudez have been involved in provocative actions against EPS forces in Region 5 in the past few days.

The defense minister also said, Zelaya notes, that the counterrevolutionaries have been receiving or rather have continued the air supply of weapons in southern Nicaragua.

Zelaya concludes his report by stating that reporters approached Ortega after the important event. Ortega referred to the division within the contra leadership, noting:

"These are generals without divisions. Therefore, they are looking for troops to try to blackmail [words indistinct]. Consequently, they are not true representatives of the contra armed forces. However, they have presented themselves and the United States has presented them as the contra leadership. Subsequently, we have been negotiating with them.

"In this split, there are military chiefs, such as Emiliano, who follows Bermudez' orders—also El Quiche, and Max [words indistinct]. We heard some talk that this is a split that is irreversible.

"If you are a member of a political party or a [words indistinct] labor organization and there is a quarrel, it can be easily resolved. [Passage indistinct] However, in a military structure, when there is a subordination by an officer, that is the end of him. He will have no possibility of continuing in that structure. This is true in any army or military organization.

"Therefore, in their case, when top and intermediate commanders rebelled against Bermudez' leadership, there is no chance of repairing that. [passage indistinct]

"What happens is that Bermudez maintains the control [words indistinct] because the most important logistical bases are located in Honduras. A big share of the contra [words indistinct] of the 5,000 contras, more or less, [words indistinct] in Honduras.

"What does this mean? It means that Bermudez controls all the infrastructure and logistics for the [words indistinct]. Therefore, to the extent that [words indistinct] negotiation, you saw that in the last Managua meeting no people from the contra military structure came here with a negotiating attitude. They sent people like Max and El Quiche, those who agree with Bermudez.

"What have they come to do in the talks? They have come to prevent any negotiations, because to the extent that no negotiations are held or that these negotiations are delayed, they will be receiving aid [words indistinct]. If an agreement is reached on the modus operandi, then the aid would be channelled to the country's interior, and this aid would reach the various forces, including the forces that oppose Bermudez.

"Then, as long as there is no settlement favoring him and having Calero there to negotiate with us, then it is to Bermudez' advantage to obstruct any negotiation or advance [words indistinct] tons of aid through Honduras. They have been using those mechanisms to send military supplies—we have verified that. Now with the decision to send them money—which is the most irresponsible and illegal action ever—the negotiations have stopped.

"Therefore, Bermudez is not interested in seeing any progress in the agreements."

Vice President Ramirez on Trip to U.S.

PA1605014288 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1736 GMT 15 May 88

[News conference held by Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado with unidentified reporters at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua on Ramirez' return from a "working visit" to the United States—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ramirez] Aside from the activities carried out with the rest of the Central American vice presidents at the United Nations to promote the (?cooperation) plan, I think the most important aspect of my trip was my visit to Washington to meet with Jim Wright, speaker of the House of Representatives, and six other representatives and senators of the Democratic leadership.

At a meeting that lasted almost 2 hours, I had the chance to explain the Nicaraguan Government position concerning the negotiations with the contra leadership.

I mentioned that the Managua government (?is not opposed to) the so-called humanitarian aid for the counterrevolutionaries, as long as it is food and medicine.

On the contrary, I said, it was here at the last Managua meeting where we proposed that since no overall agreement was reached to lead to a final cease-fire and to the incorporation of the contras into Nicaragua's civilian life, the International Red Cross should deliver this aid.

We said that we are willing to allow the International Red Cross, in coordination with other neutral humanitarian organizations, to deliver this aid, which they claim they are very interested in receiving.

We were also very clear in establishing that the delays in the negotiations—now that the contras propose one date, then another, then they say they do not agree to meeting in Managua—are basically due to the fact that they cannot reach an agreement because of the grave contradictions and the military conflict they are experiencing.

I clearly explained to the representatives and the senators and to Mr Wright that a contra civil war is about to begin in Honduras between these mercenary forces and that it is a conflict among the contra military.

The contra political leadership that has come here to negotiate does not have much influence in this conflict because the contradictions are among the military. This quarrel involves Bermudez and those who reject Bermudez' leadership.

I also reported that the contra military leaders who have attended the meetings have been changed many times. We cannot trust that. I added that those who signed the peace agreement in Sapoa, Tono and Fernando, were arrested by the Honduran Army at Bermudez' request and were expelled to the United States.

I clearly told them that all these facts show—I am sure that they were convinced of that—that the contras cannot continue serious negotiations at this time.

I think that their response was very positive. Wright's spokesman told the press that they were persuaded by the arguments that the Nicaraguan Government was expressing through me. They said these delays in the humanitarian aid were not because of the Nicaraguan Government and that the Nicaraguan leaders were willing to agree that these humanitarian supplies be sent to the places where the contras are.

Therefore, [words indistinct] Reagan administration sectors have been insisting that if the humanitarian aid is not sent to the contras—forgetting the conflict they have among themselves—they were going to submit a new bill to Congress to obtain more military aid.

I think that will be more difficult now that the House's Democratic leadership has been persuaded about the fairness of [words indistinct] and the fact that we are negotiating seriously. Therefore, the U.S. Congress should remain [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Regarding the aid to the Central American countries, was the source of that money mentioned?

[Ramirez] That is something we have said we oppose. We oppose the delivery of cash to the contras. That goes against all Nicaraguan laws...

[Reporter, interrupting] No, I am referring to what the United Nations approved for the Central American economies.

[Ramirez] Oh, well, you are referring to the vice presidents' meeting. Yes, these are funds that will be collected through [words indistinct] and now that the UN General Assembly resolution was approved, the UN secretary general and the [words indistinct] will begin working on obtaining these funds to help [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What are the chances for a new meeting with the contras? How flexible will the government be?

[Ramirez] I repeat, there are serious contradictions there. The contra leadership has a conflict with its military leaders. They must resolve that problem so we can know if these negotiations can continue or not.

[Reporter] The AID (?has decided) to deliver cordobas. How do you view that?

[Ramirez] That is what I was referring to. That is completely illegal, just as it is illegal to deliver funds in Honduras. The House leaders with whom I met are in complete agreement that this is illegal.

Opposition on Compliance, Resuming Dialogue

PA1405223488 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 14 May 88

[Interview with Dr Julio Ramon Garcia Vilchez, member of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party, by Roberto Sanchez—live]

[Text] [Sanchez] We have a phone call from Dr Julio Ramon Garcia Vilchez of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party, who participated in tonight's meeting of the 14 political opposition parties, where they issued a communique. Dr Garcia Vilchez has more details.

[Garcia Vilchez] The 14 political opposition parties participating in the national dialogue have drafted the following communique; I will read the text of it:

As of this date, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has not complied with the Esquipulas II agreement, particularly the points referring to, among other things, the unrestricted freedom of press and freedom of expression, full freedom of thought, and the immediate implementation of the general amnesty.

The national dialogue resumed on 21 March because of the government commitment to discuss and reach agreements concerning our demand to make some reforms to the Constitution and to satisfactorily resolve the current labor conflict, which has not yet been done.

For the past 7 months, we have been reporting the frustrating and fruitless negotiations, a process in which the president's representatives and the president himself have shown they lack the willingness to attain political agreements for national democratization. On the contrary, tensions have increased because of the increasing government repression. Our participation in the national

dialogue, which is a forum for negotiations established by the Esquipulas II agreement, makes sense if it truly helps resolve the total crisis we Nicaraguans are suffering. In this regard, we have to report that President Daniel Ortega Saavedra has not taken a responsible and serious approach to the national dialogue.

The mockery the government makes of the working class' extreme poverty has forced the Permanent Workers Congress [CPT] to start a new stage in the struggle by which they intend to renew their efforts and sacrifices until the workers rights and demands become a reality.

We see workers as the victims of the imposed monetary reforms, which deprives them of their meager salaries finally won after long decades of hard battles. The CPT has demanded that the government cease its efforts to deprive construction, auto mechanic, and food industry workers of their salaries. It has also demanded a 30-percent salary raise for all Nicaraguan workers. These demands are absolutely just and will allow workers to enjoy their rights. Therefore, the current labor conflict is an urgent and dramatic situation demanding an immediate solution.

We take this opportunity to state that when the government uses force to suppress opposition demonstrations and the workers' right to defend their gains and obtain new compensation, it is avoiding compliance with the Esquipulas II agreement and is deceiving other Central American governments that signed this commitment.

In view of all the aforementioned facts, to overcome the huge national crisis and to attain the peace and freedom Nicaraguan people demand, we:

1. Reaffirm that our struggle within the dialogue seeks to free the Constitution from the antidemocratic and autocratic content imposed on it; to eliminate the [words indistinct] possibilities; to cease the ruling party's militarization and monopoly on power; and to establish the independence, impartiality, and pluralistic nature of the judicial and legislative branches.

2. Reaffirm our unconditional support of the CPT and the struggling workers, and urge all labor sectors to increase and continue their expressions of solidarity with the striking workers.

3. Ratify that our decision to resume the dialogue is conditioned on the fulfillment of the following demands:

A. The government shall satisfactorily resolve the workers just demands.

B. During the national dialogue, the government shall fulfill its commitment to discuss and reach political agreements concerning the 17 constitutional reforms that are necessary bases for democratization, and submit them to the National Assembly—with the ruling party's support—for the first approval during the current legislative term and for the second approval at the beginning of the 1989 legislative term.

We will not allow the Sandinist government maneuvers to hinder these essential goals for attaining peace and the civic, democratic, and patriotic improvement of the serious crisis in Nicaragua.

We reaffirm to the Nicaraguan people our determination to remain united and to struggle until we achieve the complete democratization of our fatherland.

This is the document issued and signed by the 14 opposition political parties and groups that participated in the national dialogue.

[Sanchez] Doctor, do you have any possible date for the resumption of the national diaologue?

[Garcia Vilchez] Thus far, we have no idea about the date for resuming the national dialogue. Rather, we have heard some Sandinist leaders say they believe there is no reason to hold this dialogue. Nevertheless, in case there is a new call for a national dialogue, this document sets and reaffirms the political parties' position in the sense that we will not participate in the national dialogue unless the labor problem is resolved and unless there is a direct and effective discussion of the 17 constitutional reforms, which are the bases for democratization.

[Sanchez] Doctor, to what extent does the resumption of the national dialogue affect the current impasse in the talks between the government and the national resistance?

[Garcia Vilchez] Well, I believe there is no direct relation between the two initiatives. The dialogue with the RN [Nicaraguan Resistance] seeks to attain a cease-fire. However, we maintain that a definitive cease-fire will not last long unless there is a true democratization process in Nicaragua. Thus, cease-fire and democratization are two processes that must progress in a parallel manner. The Nicaraguan Government and the FSLN must understand that their challenge is to achieve the two aforementioned goals: peace and democracy. There is no democracy if there is no peace, and there can be no peace if there is no democracy.

Obando y Bravo on Continuation of War

PA1305184688 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 May 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] In an interview with LA PRENSA, Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said: "It worries me that the conversations have not progressed as we have wanted. We still do not know the date of the meeting." He was referring to the negotiations between the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] and the Nicaraguan Government.

His eminence recalled that the 60-day truce, which was signed on 21 March in Sapoa, is coming to an end. He is afraid that after this day the cannons of war will resume and that Nicaraguan youths will again be killed.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo also voiced his concern over the friction within the RN ranks. He said that "this could undo all the efforts to achieve peace."

"If there were divisions within the RN, it would be very difficult for the government and the RN to reach an agreement, because no one would be able to guess what the other faction is thinking. I am worried the cannons of war will roar again in our mountains once the truce ends on 30 May," Obando y Bravo remarked.

However, Cardinal Obando y Bravo, who has been preaching reconciliation among Nicaraguans since 1982, said that he hopes each side continues to have the political commitment to find quick solutions to the Nicaraguan problem.

He recalled that the RN and the Nicaraguan Government had agreed on 12, 13, and 14 May as possible dates for continuing the conversations.

The president of the National Reconciliation Commission recalled that on Monday (the day before yesterday) at 1630, he called Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco to tell him that the meeting would not be held on the proposed dates. It will probably be held on 18 or 25 May, he said.

However, the cardinal noted that yesterday he read in the newspapers that the meeting will be held on 19, 20, and 21 May. As a witness in those conversations, he has so far not received any information from the Nicaraguan Government or the RN.

"I always want to think that there is a political commitment," Obando y Bravo affirmed. "I am afraid that the cannons of war will continue roaring. We know that lives are lost when this happens. Many people are still alive because of the truce. If it had not been for that truce, many Nicaraguan youths would be dead by now," he concluded.

Briefs

Cooperation Agreements With Cuba

Yesterday Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas and Commander Luis Carrion, Nicaraguan industry and commerce minister, ratified cooperation and export exchange agreements between the two countries. It was said that the agreement has equal conditions for the two countries. Minister Carrion said that Nicaragua will export coffee, among other products, to Cuba and will receive raw materials and other industrial products in exchange. [Excerpt] [*PA1305223388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 May 88*]

Panama

Noriega Says Talks With U.S. Envoys 'Stagnant'

PA1305233688 Paris AFP in Spanish 2247 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Panama City, 13 May (AFP)—Today Panama Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega said that talks between his representatives and U.S. President Ronald Reagan's envoys have sunk into a "stagnant" state.

In a statement to the media, Panama's strongman said that "as long as there are troops humiliating Panamanian soil and as long as the economic aggression, threats, and psychological warfare continue, we will maintain our position of not one step backward."

Noriega confirmed that Michael Kozak, a [U.S. Government] assistant for Latin American affairs, is in Panama at the head of a U.S. negotiating team.

The Panamanian general said the dignity of the Panamanian people is not negotiable. He noted: "We Panamanians will build our own kind of democracy." He accused the United States of wanting to run a Vietnam-type experiment in Panama to implement it later in other Latin American countries, from Mexico to Patagonia.

Major Edgardo Lopez, a spokesman for Gen Noriega, in confirming that the talks that had been taking place with Washington to find a way out of Panama's 11-month-old political crisis are stagnant, said Kozak has always demanded the departure of Gen Noriega from the country and on his not returning until after the 1989 elections in Panama.

Under such conditions, Lopez said, "neither Noriega nor Latin America will agree to resign."

Not Met With U.S. Envoy

PA1405014888 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0102 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Panama's dignity is not negotiable, and as long as there are foreign troops in our territory, humiliating our country, and as long as the economic aggression, threats, and psychological war against our country continue, our country will maintain its current position, General Manuel Antonio Noriega told the press during a meeting with the 505 people's power representatives at the Omar Torrijos military base in Rio Hato.

In response to reporters' questions, Gen Noriega said his resignation from the military will be governed by the Defense Forces' internal regulations, adding that Panama cannot say when U.S. generals should retire. The general said that Mr Kozak is in Panama but he has not met with him. He later added that the United States has turned Panama into an experimental Vietnam and will

attempt to do the same in other countries on the continent. [Noriega added that] U.S. democracy does not fit Panama; nor does Mozambique's, Cuba's, or Guatemala's. The only democracy that fits Panama is Panamanian democracy.

Asked about his possible presidential candidacy, Gen Noriega said that is a thing for the future and he is living in the present, which is today, as commander of the Panama Defense Forces.

U.S. Envoy 'Must Leave'

PA1405023388 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0131 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Rio Hato, Panama, 13 May (REUTER)—Today General Manuel Antonio Noriega said that the talks he had been holding with Washington over his resignation have collapsed. He noted that the U.S. ambassador must leave Panama to make possible a solution to the Panamanian crisis.

Noriega told reporters at a rally held in the country's west that "everything has crumbled," referring to negotiations between his representatives and a special envoy of President Ronald Reagan.

The Panamanian military leader set several conditions for securing what he characterized as a democratic solution to the Panamanian crisis. One of these conditions is the removal of U.S. Ambassador Arthur Davis and his assistant, John Maisto.

Noriega said: "As long as the causes of the conflict exist, there can be no democratic solution." Speaking at a military base in this town 120 km west of the capital, Noriega said there have been no negotiations with Washington, just talks. He stated: "There can be a democratic solution once the freeze on the money is lifted, when Davis leaves, and when the unnecessarily large number of (U.S.) troops leaves the country. Then we will talk, and we will decide on a Panamanian-style democracy," he said.

Washington has stopped all its economic assistance to Panama, ordered the freezing of Panamanian assets in U.S. banks, and ordered other sanctions aimed at forcing Noriega to resign from his post as commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

Noriega said that Reagan's envoy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Kozak, is still in Panama, but they have not met during this visit. Kozak has visited Panama on many occasions since March. The White House decided this week to withdraw drug-trafficking charges against Noriega in exchange for the resignation of the military leader, but it noted that more concessions will be necessary.

Noriega, who appeared relaxed and happy, gave no sign of being affected by the pressure against him to resign.

Noriega said Washington had turned Panama into a "Vietnam" and it would apply the lessons on aggression it learned in Panama on other Latin American countries.

"They have turned Panama into an experimental Vietnam, and that Vietnam will be applied against any other country, from Patagonia to Mexico," Noriega said.

Noriega said Washington is trying to overthrow him as part of a plan to maintain control of the Panama Canal after the year 2000, when the canal must come under Panamanian jurisdiction.

"We believe we are headed toward a democracy, but wearing our own boots, not boots with a foreign brand name," Noriega added.

Noriega smiled and remained silent when he was asked whether he is planning on running for president in the May 1989 elections.

Some opposition politicians have said Noriega could nominate himself to challenge Washington. However, diplomatic sources do not believe Noriega thinks he has the necessary support to win in a free election.

Noriega said that just as he cannot demand the resignation of a U.S. general, Washington cannot insist that he resign from the FDP.

The United States has approximately 10,000 soldiers stationed in Panama. Recently, 2,000 additional soldiers were deployed to the U.S. military bases in Panama.

Noriega and President Manuel Solis Palma today attended several events commemorating another anniversary of the death of Victoriano Lorenzo, a guerrilla who led the struggle for independence in the past century.

Ritter Says Noriega Indictment 'Political Farce'

PA1405220488 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 14 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] With his usual straightforwardness, Panama Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter told U.S. television that Panama is solely interested in matters vital to the fatherland in the direct contacts being held between Panamanian and White House officials. Panama's interests are: That the Panamanian Government be respected and duly recognized, as this government was formed legally; and that there be an immediate end to all the economic aggression and slander that Washington has been using against the Panamanian people.

Some U.S. media, prompted and even deceived by the State Department, have been speculating on an alleged arrangement. According to this arrangement, the U.S.

would withdraw it slanderous indictment [preceding word in English] against General Manuel Antonio Noriega. The indictment was prepared with false witnesses in Florida courts.

Moreover, Foreign Minister Ritter stated just as clearly that those slanderous accusations are not part of the talks that Panamanian authorities are holding with U.S. President Reagan's representatives. The ill-intended indictment is just a political farce used by Washington to pressure the Panamanian Government. It lacks any legal validity. Panama is not interested in discussing that hoax. That hoax is exclusively a U.S. problem.

Gen Noriega's uprightness is free of any suspicion. There is nothing to discuss about it. Washington set up that farce, but it did not work. Washington fell into its own trap. Now it needs to get rid of that farce because its goals have failed. Washington must resolve the problem that has arisen because of its own mistakes, such as the indictment. This problem has now turned against the White House and the candidacy of George Bush.

Panama is solely interested in obtaining justice. It is interested in the immediate suspension of economic aggression; the end to military intimidation; the recognition and respect of the national government; the full compliance with the Panama Canal Treaties; and compliance with all the principles and guidelines of international law.

The Miami and Tampa farce is the gringos' problem. We have nothing to do with it.

Resolution Progress Sows Opposition 'Panic'

PA1405001188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2245 GMT 13 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The report that there is progress toward a resolution of the Panamanian crisis has created panic among certain elements in Washington and Panama.

For months, the national government has offered a broad framework for a dialogue among Panamanians. The offer has been adamantly rejected by the extremist opposition group, which wants to worsen rather than resolve the problem.

Nevertheless, the offer of a national dialogue has continued making headway: first, because Solis Palma has given it seriousness and viability; second, because the dialogue has matured and is beginning to generate responses under the sponsorship of the FUP [People's Unity Front] at Atlapa [Convention Center]; third, because important spokesmen for the most significant opposition force—the Authentic Panamenist Party—have shown signs of being interested in a possible settlement.

At the same time, the repeated mistakes of the most extremist group in Washington represented by the blundering Mr Abrams have led to the opening of an alternate route for contacts between Panamanian authorities and more sensible White House spokesmen desirous of saving President Reagan's reputation in light of what already represents a U.S. defeat provoked by the firm patriotic resistance of Panamanians and growing Latin American solidarity.

On the defensive, isolated, and near desperation, the hotheads in Washington and Panama are doing everything they can to torpedo and block any progress. They keep trying to maintain the confusion through misinformation to worsen the crisis. In the United States, these groups have again insisted on the vileness and slander based on an indictment that lacks legal substance or credible evidence and has been blown up by costly and sordid publicity.

This indictment, which was fabricated with questionable and indefensible testimony to put political pressure on Panama, has now become an embarrassing problem for the Reagan administration, which is now caught in its own trap. The enemies of the U.S. Administration and of the Republican candidate for the coming election are now exerting pressures to make this indictment even more controversial and difficult to quash. Some want the falsity of the procedure to become more obvious as another blunder of the Reagan administration, and others want to make it more difficult for the President to save face.

In any event, this is an internal problem of the Washington establishment [preceding word in English] and not a Panamanian problem. We know that the charges are slanderous, legally untenable, and based on a Reaganite regional strategy that has already failed. What is in question is not a man but our nation's sovereignty and right to self-determination. This is unrenounceable and nonnegotiable. Let Washington settle its problems in its own establishment [preceding word in English]. That is its own problem.

As far as we are concerned, the Panamanian people have already resolved their problem. They have sentenced the servilists [reference to Civic Crusade members] linked to the moribund Abrams plan to loneliness, isolation, and decrepitude.

Opposition Criticizes U.S. Negotiations

PA1405025888 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2346 GMT 13 May 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 13 May (REUTER)—Today a Panamanian opposition leader said the negotiations in Washington to discuss a plan to put aside all penal actions against General Manuel Antonio Noriega in exchange for his resignation are harming the Panamanian people.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, said "the U.S. Government branches should coordinate their policies."

Arias Calderon told REUTER that "the U.S. Administration's domestic problems are having a negative effect on Panama. They are prolonging something that is disastrous for the Panamanian people." [passage omitted]

Arias Calderon also criticized Washington for not consulting with the opposition concerning its policy changes and negotiations with Noriega. [passage omitted]

The opposition leader said that even though the United States and Noriega can negotiate Noriega's personal problems, such as the drug-trafficking charges, the opposition should be allowed to participate in broader talks involving the country's future.

Mediation Offer From Guatemala Declined

PA1305193388 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1818 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Today Foreign Ministry sources said that Panama's situation does not need the mediation of any third country.

This was the reply announced today upon learning that the Guatemalan Government had supposedly agreed to mediate in Panama's conflict with the United States.

The sources said that although the good intentions of other nations interested in Panama's future are appreciated, such mediation is unnecessary; the Panamanian authorities and Washington maintain direct contacts on all necessary topics.

Opposition Group Joins National Dialogue

PA1405041788 Paris AFP in Spanish 0143 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Panama City, 13 May (AFP)—Today the opposition People's Civic Movement (MCP) joined a dialogue that labor groups, the Army, and progovernment parties have been holding for the past month to find a solution to the crisis that Panama has been experiencing for the past 11 months.

Francisco Castaneda, coordinator of the People's Unity Front [FUP], the organization that organized the dialogue being held at the Atlapa Convention Center in this capital, said the MCP will be represented at the meetings by civic leader Mauro Zuniga.

The MCP, which is made up of social democrats, student groups, and professionals, is a splinter group of the Civic Crusade, a movement comprised of over 100 opposition groups.

MCP members have opposed a possible U.S. military intervention in Panama, which has been publicly requested by several leaders of the Crusade, both within and outside the country.

The Crusade feels that the national dialogue is actually a monologue among forces that support the government, and it has reiterated its demand that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, resign before there can be talks about the nation's political future.

The FDP is being represented at the talks by Lieutenant Colonel Guillermo Wong, chief of state security, and Colonel Julio Ow Young.

Return of Opposition Leaders Authorized

PA1505021188 Paris AFP in Spanish 2130 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Panama, 14 May (AFP)—The Panamanian Government has authorized the repatriation of two opposition leaders who were expelled last week by state security organizations, representatives of an international organization that mediated in the case announced in Panama City.

A communique from the Center for Peace and Disarmament stated that President Manuel Solis Palma and Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari authorized the return of Ivan Romero and Rogelio Cruz.

The communique added that envoys from the organization, which is headquartered in Caracas, met in Panama for 1 week with government and opposition representatives, acting on a request for "humanitarian action" to help the expelled leaders.

The organization expressed hope that the revocation of the expulsion order will help normalize coexistence in Panama.

This nation has experienced a political crisis for the past 11 months due to the opposition's demand, supported by the United States, that Defense Forces chief General Manuel Noriega resign.

Romero is the Christian Democratic Party general secretary, and according to the party's president he was mistreated when he was expelled to Miami.

'Strategic Military Council' Established

PA1405033588 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] At a ceremony this afternoon at the Omar Torrijos military base, the Strategic Military Council [Consejo Estrategico Militar—CEM] was created by executive decree and began functioning. The council will advise the president and the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] commander in chief.

Present at the ceremony were Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the presidency, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP, the FDP General Staff, state ministers, and other officials.

The CEM will advise the commander and his general staff on the adoption of strategic decisions for the use of national military power in the defense of territorial integrity and national sovereignty, which will guarantee the achievement and maintenance of permanent national goals, with a view to the year 2000.

The CEM is led by Colonel Rogelio Alba and comprised of Lieutenant Colonels Moises Correa, Aristides Hassan, and Nivaldo Madrinan; Majors Pascual Gonzalez, Armando Palacio Gondola, Daniel Delgado, Hilario Trujillo, Luis Cordoba, Rafael Cedeno, Federico Olechea, Felipe Camargo, Humberto Melara, and Francisco Porras; and Captains George Balma, Ceverino Mejia, Mario Del Cid, Luis Quiel, Nicasio Lorenzo, and Marcos Castillo.

Further on Council

PA1505010588 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 May 88 p 2

[Text] Executive Decree No 85 of 29 October 1984 created the National Security and Defense Council as an advisory organization for his excellency the president of the Republic in the formulation of policies and adoption of measures pertaining to national security or those aspects of national development or international policy having a direct bearing on the nation's security and defense.

The commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces is a permanent member of this council. In light of this important responsibility, the Strategic Military Council (CEM) is created.

1. Mission of the Strategic Military Council

Advise the commander in chief and his general staff in strategic decisions to be used by the military in the defense of territorial integrity and national sovereignty, guaranteeing the attainment and upholding of permanent national objectives between now and the year 2000.

2. Duties of the Strategic Military Council

A. Strategically analyze the situation.

B. Determine the strategic areas affecting national security.

C. Present criteria to formulate a national security policy.

D. Establish war and conflict hypotheses.

E. Determine security objectives and policies.

F. Take action when public services are placed under the security of the Defense Forces during state of emergencies decreed by the executive.

G. Formulate strategies and strategic actions to attain and uphold national security objectives.

H. Draft basic and general national security plans.

I. Prepare 5-year development plans for the forces.

J. Present courses of action and recommendations.

K. Guarantee interaction in the state security apparatus.

L. Guarantee the operation of a stategic intelligence network with a national and international scope.

M. Draft strategic, political, economic, psychosocial, and military documents.

N. Carry out investigations and inspections [vistas] pertaining to crimes of treason and against the state's integrity committed by Defense Forces members.

O. Attend to and evaluate labor conflicts that could affect national stability and recommend solutions.

3. Membership of the Strategic Military Council

A. A colonel director.

B. Three lieutenant colonels.

C. Ten majors.

D. Six captains.

4. Organization

A. Directorate.

B. Section for analysis and information.

C. Section for the formulation of strategies.

D. Interagency liaison section.

E. Planning section.

F. Section for political, labor, and labor union conflicts.

5. Operation

A. The Strategic Military Council will meet once a week and at any other time as required by the national and international situation. This should in no way affect the duties and mission of each member.

B. The Strategic Military Council will be installed as a permanent consulation and advisory service of the commander in chief and his general staff during crisis situations requiring action.

6. Members of the Strategic Military Council

1. Colonel Rogelio Alba 2. Lieutenant Colonel Moises Correa 3. Lieutenant Colonel Aristides I. Hassan 4. Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan 5. Major Pacual Gonzalez 6. Major Armando Palacios Gondola 7. Major Daniel Delgado Diamante 8. Major Jose Hilario Trujillo 9. Major Luis A. Cordoba 10. Major Rafael A. Cedeno Ch. 11. Major Federico Olechea 12. Major Felipe Camargo Amaya 13. Major Humberto Melara 14. Major Francisco Porras 15. Captain Jesus George Balma 16. Captain Severino Mejia 17. Captain Mario del Cid 18. Captain Luis Quiel 19. Captain Nicasio Lorenzo Drake 20. Captain Marcos Castillo

Permanent National Objectives

A. Strengthen and consolidate the nation by giving it the ability to face challenges that will arise between now and the end of the century, when Panama will take over the operation, maintenance, and defense of the Panama Canal, in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

B. Create the necessary conditions and structure [capacidades] to meet the social needs of citizens, in keeping with the hopes for well-being and progress, to guarantee that peace, which characterizes Panama, will be maintained.

C. Strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions by allowing all Panamanians to participate in the adoption of the nation's fundamental decisions.

D. Further, under better conditions, the integration of all sectors to guarantee the exploitation of all natural resources.

E. Perfect Panama's political and economic independence, which is needed to ensure that neutrality, nonalignment, nonintervention, and mutual respect of states are the bases for international relations.

F. Maintain the doctrine of permanent alertness to ensure compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and the end of foreign military presence in December, 1999.

Panama City, 13 May 1988

U.S.-Connected Military 'Plot' Uncovered

PA1505170288 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 15 May 88 pp 1A, 8A

[Report by Luis E. Quintero-Barrera; passages in upper-case as published]

[Text] The state's security organizations have discovered a plot to cause death, bloodshed, mourning, and sorrow—with U.S. participation.

The mercenaries hired to carry out this new subversive plan have declared that they had $2 million and a large amount of weapons, some of which were confiscated. The investigation continues to locate and confiscate more weapons hidden in various areas of the country.

According to the arrested mercenaries' confession, they were to implement A VIOLENT URBAN GUERRILLA PLAN in the most important cities of the country; a second phase of the subversive plan would involve an INVASION OPERATION at the Costa Rican-Panamanian border area with the participation of approximately 70 former SANDINIST CONTRAS who are currently living in Costa Rica.

The new conspiracy and subversion plans against legally appointed authorities were prepared in view of the failure of the CIVIC CRUSADE, which was created by the United States.

Violent actions would be immediately carried out to complement the subversive "urban guerrillas'" actions, including the kidnapping of outstanding civilian officials and Defense Forces officers; and murders would be perpetrated to cause fear and panic among the people.

Eng Eduardo Sanchez Pena issued a declaration to state security officials and revealed that the two movements—the "urban guerrillas" and the "Costa Rican-Panamanian border area guerrillas," which is evidently a military group—included the participation of Carlos Rodolfo Worrell Best, Julio Cesar Adames A., Jose Torres Meza, and Humberto Antonio Gutierrez, who are mercenaries for hire.

Jose Manuel Echevers also led one of the subversive groups and planned to enter the country today, 15 May, leading a group of approximately 70 former contras. They would infiltrate Panamanian territory through several points along the Costa Rican-Panamanian border.

Eng Sanchez Pena's center of operations was located at the TROPEX BATTERY Factory, Inc., which is located at 28 Harry Eno Street in the Industrial Park, across from LAS MOLAS. He also confessed there was a group of collaborators known as the "THE BOYS CLUB," which included the carrying out by Mrs Eusebia de la Lastra subversive and guerrilla plans.

The plan also included Herrera Hassan [Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan, ambassador to Israel], Villalaz, Del Rio, and Adames, who live in a room at the Panamanian Embassy in Washington and are paid a salary for their treason to the homeland by Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Elliott Abrams' official errand boy.

Members of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] supported the military subversion plans during several talks with the mercenary leaders. Mrs Eusebia de la Lastra met several times with PDC Legislator Carlos Arellano Lennox and explained the details of the terrorist subversion plan. The meetings were held at the Executive Hotel, according to statements issued by several of the conspirators.

The state security investigators were surprised by the large amount of weapons and equipment, including highly sophisticated weapons, which were purchased by leaders of the new military subversion movements to be used in Panamanian territory.

A search for more weapons is being carried out in different areas of the capital and the interior, based on the declarations issued by the arrested men. The sophisticated equipment includes automatic and semiautomatic weapons; guns and revolvers; tear-gas, smoke, and fragmentation grenades; long-range rifles; Maxell and Kaffir rifles; and Uzi machine guns. Fatigues, knives, bayonets, and canteens were also confiscated.

Official on Closing of Consulates in U.S.

PA1305153088 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 May 88 pp 6, 8

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera has accused the State Department of "harassing, hounding, and canceling the consular recognition" of legitimate representatives of the Panamanian Government in U.S. territory.

The senior Foreign Ministry official said these reasons forced the Manuel Solis Palma government to "temporarily close" the Panamanian consulates [in the United States] until "the crisis in the relations between the two countries is over."

The decision was made this week because the United States continues to recognize Eric Delvalle, who was desposed by the Legislative Assembly on 25 February.

For the past 2 months Panamanian Government consuls have been unable to carry out their functions because of the dispute over the diplomatic and consular representation in the United States.

Cabrera said the "harassment and hounding" has led to excessive actions by Juan Sosa, with the backing of the State Department, and has included the substitution of "arbitrarily chosen" people, who have not had any recognized public function, for legitimate consuls.

Nevertheless, Cabrera announced that Panamanian citizens will be able to carry out any consular business through relatives in Panama and that "merchant marine" services will be provided to the shipping companies through third countries or directly by the Panamanian Government.

"There will be no vacuum," Cabrera said, adding that "with this action by the government "we will not be helping the "illicit" activities of people who are usurping functions and issuing false documents to embezzle state funds. [quotation marks as published]

A dispatch of the official news agency PANAPRESS indicated that tourists and other visitors will obtain their visas at Panamanian airports and ports, where they will be received with "the usual hospitality."

Nicaragua's Arce Meets With Solis Palma

PA1505205988 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce Castano has reported that Nicaragua reasserted to Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma the Sandinists' solidarity given the pressure exerted against that isthmian country by the United States.

The deputy coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission returned from a Socialist International meeting in Spain and visited the Panamanian president.

Arce said: I met with President Solis Palma to learn about Panama's current situation and to reassert Nicaragua's solidarity with that nation, given the U.S. Administration's interventionist policy.

Group of Eight Reported Willing To Give Aid

PA1405194388 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] The Group of Eight is willing to help Panama. Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios said the Group of Eight is willing to contribute in view of Panama's current difficult situation caused by the U.S. embargo. Foreign Minister Barrios noted that the group is waiting for Panama to deem it appropriate to receive any sort of aid from that group or from all of Latin America because of this coutry's economic situation.

Barrios recalled that the embargo caused the dismissal of 35,000 [figure as heard] public employees and an unusual economic situation that is growing more complicated. It is up to the Panamanians to decide when our intervention will be necessary, the Uruguayan foreign minister said.

PDC Deputy on Assembly Summons, Noriega Talks

PA1405030888 Panama City Radio Alegre in Spanish 1240 GMT 13 May 88

[Interview with Legislator Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), by Maribel del Carmen Saldana; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Saldana] We are going to interview the PDC vice president, Legislator Guillermo Cochez, to hear his opinion regarding the approval by the Legislative Assembly, after the order of the day was altered, of a six-point draft questionnaire proposed by Legislator Rigoberto Paredes. The draft summons Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon and Attorney General Carlos Alberto Villalaz to appear at a future date before the Legislative Assembly. Mr Cochez, we would like to have your opinion regarding this situation.

[Cochez] Yes, yesterday the Legislative Assembly, in a move that perplexed us tremendously, presented for consideration the summons for the attorney general and government and justice minister to appear to answer questions on how many political prisoners are in Panamanian prisons, how many Panamanian politicians have been exiled, how many and who are charged with attacking the nation's national security and integrity, the reasons why some newspapers are closed, how many violations have been committed against human rights, and what are the bases of the Panama Defense Forces' [FDP] safeguarding of the state's integrity.

As I said in yesterday's session, although I would be crazy to support a motion by Mr Rigoberto Paredes, I was not in this case, because I want the attorney general and the government minister to appear before the Assembly to answer such questions. I know beforehand, however, that they will not appear; or if they do, the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] legislators will prevent a quorum. When the motion was submitted to debate, it was noted that the majority of the PRD legislators voted no to the summons, but because of most of the opposition's vote and with the vote of some government legislators, including Mr Paredes, the motion for the summons was approved.

The summons is for Monday or Tuesday next week. We Panamanians should be satisfied to see that through our opposition legislators, including yours truly, we can question the government minister and the attorney general regarding concrete situations, such as the deportation last year of Marisol de Romero and the deportation without any judicial order of PDC Secretary General Ivan Romero last Thursday as he was returning from the United States. He was vilely tortured until they apparently confirmed he had scars on his chest from cardiovascular surgery. This perhaps troubled their conscience; they thought they might kill him if they continued torturing him and striking him with rocks on his head and feet. This will really give us an opportunity to question these two officials regarding the tremendous human rights violations in Panama.

Amnesty International, a prestigious international organization that safeguards human rights, has circulated a recent March report that was given yesterday to the legislators. Hopefully they will appear for questioning so we can hear in their own voice how they can find justification for everything that has happened. I hope, I repeat, that they will appear. However, I think they will not dare, because they will receive orders from higher up preventing them from going to the Assembly. [passage omitted]

[Saldana] Legislator Cochez, what is your opinion regarding the agreement being reached between General Noriega and the United States for the charges against him to be dropped in exchange for his leaving power and the country?

[Cochez] Like other Panamanians, we have heard the press reports on the agreement being negotiated between Gen Noriega and the State Department, or the agreement that is about to be reached. However, we have no indication that this is true. There has been so much speculation in this regard that we do not know exactly what is being negotiated. Gen Noriega's problem, his indictment in Miami and Tampa, Florida, the United States, is a problem between Gen Noriega and U.S. courts. On that matter, he is the only person who can resolve that personal problem with the U.S. authorities.

What we can say, without knowing the details of this possible agreement, is that although we look favorably upon, or rather do not look unfavorably upon Gen Noriega's talking to the United States, we clearly tell both Gen Noriega and the United States the following: If Gen Noriega reaches an agreement tomorrow with the United States that is incompatible with our aspirations of democracy, liberty, and justice, we will continue our struggle, not against a man, but against a system that since 1968 has taken the country to chaos, misery, and its virtual destruction.

However, we want to say that the national government has denied that an agreement has been reached, as was reported in the United States. We can understand this, because Gen Noriega knows that the small groups that support him today, particularly Marxist groups, and a very small group of military who do not want democracy, who are against the professionalism of the FDP, do not want an agreement to be reached. They are the ones who persist in telling the general that he is the man, that he must stay there, that he must even run for president.

It is understandable that if Gen Noriega were to reach an agreement with the United States, he would deny it, so as to not alarm those small groups that still support him, and to make them believe that there is no agreement. However, as a Panamanian, I believe we are very close to

finding a solution to the Panamanian crisis and that it must stem from the departure of Gen Noriega, not only from his post of commander, but from the country for a significant period of time. I think his departure would permit the following two objectives: restructuring of the FDP, its professionalism, the retirement of those eligible to retire, and everything that gives the FDP its vital role in Panamanian society, which is to guarantee the security of the Panamanians and to fulfill its role in defending the Panama Canal. This would permit us from now until the elections to install a government of national reconciliation in Panama. Those objectives definitely will not be met if the general insists on remaining as FDP commander and, if after leaving the FDP command post, he insists on staying in Panama. Therefore, in that sense, we think it is logical that if an agreement is being reached, Gen Noriega will deny it, so as not to create the emnity of the very few who are defending him today at all costs. [passage omitted]

U.S. Envoy To Face Suit on 'Hijacked' Aircraft

PA1505211688 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 15 May 88 pp 1A, 8A

[Excerpts] Investigations conducted by LA REPUBLICA indicate that the Civil Aeronautics Directorate [DAC] is going to file a suit against Ambassador Arthur Davis in the next few days.

The DAC plans are based on the U.S. diplomat's actions. Davis violated Panamanian aviation laws when he hijacked an aircraft and ordered it to land at another airport without the appropriate authorization. [passage omitted]

In addition to committing other crimes, Davis also violated the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

It is expected that Davis will request the lifting of his diplomatic immunity [as published], as has been the case in other countries when an ambassador has committed a crime, in order to face the consequences of his actions.

Goodin on Measures Against U.S. 'Aggression'

PA1505182588 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 May 88

[Interview with Finance Minister Orville Goodin by Cubavision correspondent Nelson Notario Castro in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text][Castro] Dr Goodin, if the present level of aggression is maintained, and Panama maintains its position of not taking a single step backward, how long would it take the Panamanian state to recover from the U.S. economic aggression?

[Goodin] As this is a small country with a small market, recovery can only come with the interaction with the entire world; countries must open their markets to our products and help us with financing so we can continue importing the products we need for local production and consumer activities.

[Castro] How much Latin American solidarity has materialized, and what form do you think this can take to help Panama?

[Goodin] In the extraordinary meetings of SELA and ECLA, the support has been marvelous in political terms. There has also been some translation of this into material terms. As you know, the Cuban people have helped us, and we are very grateful. The other countries are also carrying out exchanges to be able to help.

[Castro] You have spoken of harm to U.S. companies. Do you have any estimates in figures as to their losses?

[Goodin] I have no figures as to the losses of U.S. companies, but I can say that the losses of local companies have been much more severe.

[Castro] You spoke during the news conference that just ended of the possibility of injecting other strong currencies into the local financial system.

[Goodin] This is a plan that the [revolutionary] process and the Democratic Revolutionary Party have been designing for the year 2000 with a partner to the north. It is very probable that we are going to have to accelerate that plan.

[Castro] Do you have a message for our people?

[Goodin] Cuban people, you have been attacked, so you know what it is like. You fought and won. Therefore, the Panamanian people, following your example, will do the same.

Ministry Measures on Import Tax Payments

PA1505171288 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 15 May 88 p B-3

[Communique signed by Virgilio Ramos, director general of the Finance and Treasury Ministry's General Customs Directorate; date not given]

[Text] Finance and Treasury Ministry

The General Customs Directorate informs all importers residing in the Republic of Panama that as a result of an order decreed by his excellency the minister in charge of the Presidency, this office has issued specific instructions to customs liquidation offices to exempt import goods from the United States from requiring a consular receipt to liquidate and pay import taxes.

The consular duties [derechos] of imports affected by this measure must be liquidated and paid for at the General Consular and Ships Directorate.

General Customs Directorate Virgilio Ramos Director General

Official Warns of Colon Free Zone Difficulties

PA1305214988 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 May 88

[Statement by Francisco Anderson, Colon Free Zone Users Association president; date and place not given — recording]

[Text] The Colon Free Zone is currently confronting one of its worst moments, and now a law apparently created to destroy once and for all the Free Zone has emerged. I do not know why this bill implicates the Free Zone; the Free Zone is an area of international trade. It was created for the distribution of merchandise in the Western Hemisphere. I believe that if the purpose of this bill is to protect local producers, merchandise that should not be brought into the Republic of Panama or into Panamanian territory should be controlled from beyond the Free Zone's doors. I believe it is a serious mistake to create a law that will prevent the Free Zone from importing certain products.

I sincerely believe that if the political problem is not resolved, reactivation will be very difficult, because of the simple fact that within the entire Central American region and probably throughout Latin America, Panama has always been considered a country of economic and political stability, but over the past few months this sense of stability has been considerably damaged. I believe that if the political problem is not resolved, it will be difficult to reactivate the national economy, and the same holds true for the Free Zone, which has suffered much greater damage because it trades with other countries. If the political problem is not resolved, I am convinced the situation will become very, very difficult for the Free Zone.

Argentina

President Alfonsin Arrives in PRC for Visit

For Chinese reportage on the visit to the PRC by Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 13 May China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Defense Source Denies Purchase of PRC Planes

PY1305174988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1428 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 May (TELAM)—For the time being, Argentina has no plans to acquire PRC-made fighter planes or Silkworm missiles.

This has been reported by a reliable Defense Ministry source, who added that the PRC fighters are short-range and they are not mass-produced, which means most of their parts are not interchangeable.

The source admitted that neither the Navy nor the Air Force have been able to replace the materiel lost during the Malvinas war due to the restrictions on weapons sales imposed by Great Britain and the Argentine economic situation.

Alfonsin Issues Denial

PY1605021088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2036 GMT 15 May 88

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Beijing, 15 May (NA)—Today President Raul Alfonsin categorically denied the PRC is planning to sell weapons to Argentina or that such a possibility has been discussed on his visit to the PRC.

Alfonsin's denial ended rumors that circulated last week in Buenos Aires about a supposed Argentine purchase of Chinese missiles.

Foreign correspondents in Beijing also heard these rumors in the past few days, and one of them raised the issue with the president during a news conference this morning.

Air Force Commander Brigadier Ernesto Crespo also denied such a possibility in statements to Argentine television while the Argentine delegation visited the Forbidden City.

The rumors about the supposed weapon sale to Argentina by the PRC, the world's fifth-largest exporter of weapons, referred not only to missiles, but to a fighter plane similar to the Soviet MIG 25.

"We have not thought of purchasing weapons from the PRC," Alfonsin responded to a question during the news conference.

Government To Sign Sugar Agreements With PRC

PY1305043088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires (NA)—Today Regional Development Under Secretary Ricardo Entrena reported that Argentina will sell 150,000 metric tons of sugar a year to the PRC for 2 or 3 years depending on "the national capacity of production, domestic comsumption, and the contracts previously signed by the local industries."

Entrena pointed out that the agreement will be negotiated by Trade Exchange Under Secretary Diego Berdou, who will visit the PRC as a member of the official delegation accompanying President Raul Alfonsin.

Entrena—who is also a mediator at the National Sugar Directorate—emphasized that "the entire operation will be studied and discussed with the sugar producing enterprises. Later, a negotiating team comprised of members of the private sector and official representatives will visit to sign the agreement."

The negotiations were initiated by the Beijing National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Import and Export Corporation (Ceroilfood), which is a PRC state-owned organization in charge of food supply.

Vice President on Ammunition Sale to Iran

PY1405040988 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 May 88 p 6

[Text] Rosario, 12 May (NA)—Yesterday Victor Martinez, Argentine vice president and acting president, tacitly admitted that the Argentine Government is selling ammunition to Iran in the framework of "normal operations" which, according to official sources, "do not upset the balance of the military conflict" between Iran and Iraq.

Martinez said that he "had no information" about the shipment of military materiel to Iran, allegedly being loaded on a ship flying the Iranian flag docked in a private port belonging to the SOMISA plant in San Nicolas. Martinez stressed, however, that "it is no crime to sell arms."

The vice president added that "the government has nothing to hide" in this regard. Meanwhile, information received indicates that the ship named "Alhoa," which arrived in the port of San Nicolas on 7 May, has begun to load Argentine-made materiel, mainly war ammunition.

Ministry Reinstates Suarez Manson as General

PY1305225388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2057 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 May (TELAM)—Today the Defense Ministry reported that at a request of the Buenos Aires Federal Court, former General Carlos Suarez Mason was reinstated in the Army in order for him to be prosecuted.

Herewith the text of the official communique:

On 9 May 1988, the Buenos Aires Federal Court requested the reinstatement of former General Carlos Suarez Mason in order for him to be prosecuted. On the same day, the Defense Ministry signed the resolution reinstating Suarez Mason to the rank of general, in compliance with the court's request.

The resolution was submitted to the Federal Court on 10 May.

Preventive Custody Ordered

PY1405011488 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2154 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 May (TELAM)—Tonight the Federal Court handed down a preventive custody ruling for former General Carlos Guillermo Suarez Mason. He has been charged with being involved in 39 homicides committed under the military regime within the I Army Corps jurisdiction during the antisubversive struggle.

The Federal Court will release the text of the nearly 40-page ruling after 1900.

Arosa on Subversion Fight, Reconciliation

PY1305042088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0010 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 May (NA)—This morning Admiral Ramon Arosa, Argentine Navy chief of staff, stated that "we have all grown up a little" regarding the consequences of the antisubversive struggle. He added, however, that "we still have a long way to go," and he called for action to "awaken a greater spirit of coexistence" in the society.

Adm Arosa made these remarks at the Ezeiza International Airport shortly before departing for the United States to attend the 14th Inter-American Naval Conference. Arosa also said that his service "is carrying out its specific mission."

He said: "The Navy is carrying out its duties trying, as usual, to improve our capabilities and stimulate our imagination to make the best possible use of the available resources. These resources are not as abundant as we would like, but one must accept the situation of the country as it is."

He added: "We are doing our best in our own field, worrying about the things that we cannot resolve properly so far, and hoping to have better possibilities to carry out our duties in the future."

Speaking about national reconciliation, Arosa expressed his belief that "to some extent we have all been growing up a little bit, although I think we still have a long way to go." He stressed that "it is necessary to awaken a greater spirit of coexistance."

He added that "we Argentines are too egotistic and to some extent we forget that we must coexist, and in order to coexist we must listen to our neighbors, to those around us, and exercise a little bit of good will to try to understand their problems and concerns and not expect the entire world to revolve around our own problems."

He said: "I am convinced that as soon as one manages to break through the ice a little bit and becomes willing to listen to the other side and try to understand them, we soon discover that there are many points in common that we can use to look together for the solutions to the differences that may keep us apart."

Adm Arosa said that Argentina's participation in joint naval exercises within the framework of the "Unitas" Operation was discussed during the recent visit of the commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet and visits of other U.S. officials.

He explained that the aforementioned U.S. officer "came to Argentina in response to an invitation issued by the Argentine Navy approximately 1 year ago. We discussed many things. We also talked about the "Unitas" Operation as far as our participation is concerned."

He insisted, however, that the "Unitas" Operation "was not the only, exclusive, and specific issue we discussed."

Menem Outlines Presidential Platform

PY1605032588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1518 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 May (NA)—La Rioja Governor Carlos Saul Menenm, candidate for the Justicialist Party [PJ] presidential nomination, has said that if he becomes president he will prepare a penal code reform "to apply the death sentence to drug traffickers." He also exhorted his followers "to turn the upcoming internal PJ elections of 26 June into another 17 October [date of Peronist uprising in 1945]."

He also said in a strong speech that if he became president he would declare a "a moratorium on the foreign debt to the IMF." He also said he will demand that President Raul Alfonsin and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo "embargo British assets in Argentina."

Today Menem toured several districts of greater Buenos Aires in the so-called "Caravan of Hope" that started yesterday in the town of Navarro and ended in the San Miguel stadium, northeast of this capital, where he gave this speech.

After touring the five districts that constitute the first voting district in his "Menem Mobile," Menem said in San Miguel "that the avalanche of drugs does not respect age or position, and when we take power we will send Congress a plan to reform the penal code to punish drug traffickers with the death penalty."

Regarding the embargo on British assets, he said this must be adopted "until the depredation of maritime resources in the south of Argentina ends." He likewise warned of "the maneuvers of the British warships in the Malvinas Islands that are meant to defend foreign fishing ships."

"In international law this means the United Kingdom is carrying out an economic attack against Argentina, so this must be answered with a similar measure, like declaring an embargo on British assets in Argentina."

Menem also referred to the economic crisis, saying that "our workers who produce wealth are so powerless that the wealth they produce does not even remain in the hands of Argentine capital, but finds its way to other countries."

"While the Argentine workers struggle for a $100-a-month salary, those who benefit from the export of our goods are earning $3,000 monthly, on resources that are not really theirs, but which belong to Latin America," he said.

As he explained his policy he said: "This policy was born here, without reference to other world ideologies. Justicialism was not born in industrialized Europe or in the United States, but in the humble districts of our country, and the humble people of Argentina were the ones who made the uprising of 17 October 1945."

In conclusion, Menem, who will tour the districts of Merlo, [words indistict] of Mendoza Octavio Bordon as foreign minister "after 1989."

Justicialists Set Foreign Policy Guidelines

PY1605010188 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1942 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Mendoza, 14 May (NA)—In its first seminar on international policy, the Justicialist Party [PJ] has proposed "to restructure the framework" of any possible future negotiations with the United Kingdom over the Malvinas Islands by separating the issue of the islands from that of the situation of the islanders.

Today, during the closing session of the PJ seminar, Jose Bordon, governor of Cordoba Province and PJ foreign affairs secretary, said the presence of Peronist career diplomats in the Argentine Foreign Ministry demonstrates that "it is not a foreign ministry for the Radical Party, but for Argentina."

Reporting on the five-page document containing the conclusions of the seminar, Bordon said that after consulting PJ President Antonio Caffiero and Deputy Eduardo Vaca, vice president of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, the party decided to hold another seminar on the same subject on 12 and 13 August in Santa Fe.

The following people were present at the closing of the PJ foreign policy seminar: Deputy Jose Luis Manzano, president of the PJ bloc in the Chamber of Deputies; Luis Macaya, vice governor of Buenos Aires Province; Deputies Carlos Ruckauf and Ruben Cardozo; and Ambassadors Mario Campora and Federico Mirre.

The PJ document states that regarding the South Atlantic conflict "government policy, which is mainly based on diplomatic achievements obtained at international organizations, has stagnated."

The document stresses the need to design "a Malvinas policy that would reflect an agreement to rule out any possibility of partisan struggle." It also suggests "restructuring the negotiating framework, trying to make invalid the arguments the United Kingdom uses to avoid negotiations."

Reliable sources say this paragraph basically proposes the separation of the issue of the islands and their waters from that of the problem of the islanders, for whom "a special statute should be drawn up to guarantee their condition as British citizens."

Regarding international economic problems, the PJ document proposes "to strengthen the presence of the Argentine provinces and regions in foreign trade."

The document points out the need "to harmonize the Foreign Ministry's international policy with a national foreign trade strategy" and "to appoint provincial personnel to the foreign service."

It also suggests that "the creation of more border committees and border foreign policy committees should be encouraged."

Regarding international trade, the PJ maintains that Argentina "must take advantage of the growing diversity of the economic field through a selective policy with industrialized countries."

In conclusion, the PJ seminar maintains that the agreements signed with Brazil, Uruguay, and Italy "must be structured in keeping with the national priorities for productive investment and our foreign policy. They must also be based on a principle of mutual benefit and not of prosperity for only one country."

Parties Form 'Alliance of the Center'

PY1405160388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0035 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 May (NA)—Tonight the Union of the Democratic Center (UCEDE), the Democratic Party [PD], and the Democratic Concentration Party [CD] formalized an "Alliance of the Center" [Alianza de Centro] with an eye to the 1989 presidential elections. The Alliance will announce its ticket next week.

The political accord implies "an alliance at the national and district levels that will support a joint ticket for president and vice president," and the Alliance's election platform will be drafted by a special committee.

Tonight the three centrist groups signed the agreement at the headquarters of the PD, and it will be submitted to the competent party organizations for approval.

It was also decided "to create a committee that will promote the alliance and to continue steps to obtain a larger participation by all similar political organizations throughout the country. [quotation mark as received]

The political agreement was signed by Maria Julia Alsogaray, Francisco Duranona y Vedia, and Antonio Garcia Garcia for the UCEDE; Juan Carlos Aguinada, Roberto Azaretto, Juan Carlos Linch, and Gustavo Gutierrez for the PD; and Jose de Cara and Rafael Martinez Raymonda for the CD.

It was also agreed to call the new organization the "Alliance of the Center," followed by the acronyms of the member groups when the name is used.

Atucha Nuclear Power Plant Again Shut Down

PY1305220988 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2006 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 May (DYN)—Today it was officially reported that yesterday the operation of the Atucha I nuclear power plant had to be suspended again as a result of malfunctions in the cooling system.

According to a brief communique released today by the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA), the operation of the Atucha power plant will be suspended "for a period of time that should not exceed 72 hours."

The power plant began operating a few weeks ago, following an energy crisis experienced in Argentina.

Officials on Power Cuts, Nuclear Plants

PY1305223488 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2030 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 May (DYN)—Today the Energy Secretariat announced that there will be no selective power cuts until Sunday, 22 May, despite the fact that the Atucha nuclear power plant has been shut down again.

Concerning the problem with the Atucha power plant, Electric Power Supply Under Secretary Osvaldo Porteiro has announced that "it is expected that the Atucha power plant will resume operations next Sunday and that the Embalse nuclear power plant will resume operations on Tuesday, 17 May, after which the purchase of electricity from Uruguay will be suspended."

Manufacture of Night Vision Equipment To Begin

PY1505021588 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2251 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] [No dateline as received] Argentina will shortly join the small group of countries that manufacture high technology night vision combat equipment. Argentine Military Industries will begin to manufacture sights for rifles, rockets, and missile launchers and special night binoculars for driving armored vehicles. The manufacture of these items was made possible through an agreement signed today with a U.S. enterprise.

The agreement represents a new advance in the efforts to eliminate the restrictions imposed on Argentine after the Malvinas war, especially concerning weapons sales and technology transfer.

The most striking difference between the equipment of the Argentine troops and that of the British troops was the use of night vision combat gear by the British troops.

The agreement on technical assistance was signed today by the Military Industries Director General and the U.S. Litton Company , under the authorization of the U.S. Department of State.

Defense Production Secretary Jose Maria Lado, Military Industries Director Jorge Carnelli and U.S. Charge d'Affairs Robert Service, on behalf of U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Theodore Gildred, attended the signing ceremony.

Following the agreement, Carnelli stated that "this reciprocal rapprochement between Argentina and the United States reflects the will to strengthen relations and to implement cooperation in the technical and scientific fields, which will pave the way for new agreements to improve the capacity of our military industries and train our specialists in high technology undertakings."

The local optics and electronic sectors will be developed in order to gain access to foreign markets if both sectors reach a proper competitive level.

According to the experts, the night vision binoculars and sights are used not only for conventional armed struggles but also in the fight against drug trafficking.

Experts think that in a few years, the night vision sights will be part of the individual equipment of soldiers of all the armed forces throughout the world.

Bolivia

Interior Minister Denies Plan To Attack Pope

PY1405134288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0148 GMT 13 May 88

[By TELAM special correspondent]

[Text] La Paz, Bolivia, 13 May—Tonight Bolivian Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran flatly denied that a Lebanese citizen who was detained in Santa Cruz de la Sierra last night planned to attack Pope John Paul II.

Duran said the individual, whose name has not been revealed, was detained due to the excessive zeal of the personnel in charge of the pope's security.

The guards posted near the La Salle School in Santa Cruz arrested the Lebanese man because they thought it suspicious that he was trying to get near the pope carrying an unidentified package that they thought could be a weapon.

Duran also denied reports by the local press that the Lebanese man was carrying a weapon. It has been officially reported that the Lebanese man was just a fervent believer who tried to get as close to the pope as possible.

Last night the pope met with Bolivian politicians and intellectuals at the La Salle School. The report, which was distorted by the sensationalist media, was released in La Paz as reliable information, but the government stressed that the information was false and that the official report was the reliable one.

Pope Departs for Peru

PY1405205088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2037 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Santa Cruz, 14 May (EFE)—Pope John Paul II departed Bolivia at 1629 (2029 GMT) today. He is now on his way to Peru on board a Peruvian Airlines plane. The pope is expected to arrive in Lima in approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes.

John Paul II arrived in La Paz on 9 May from Montevideo. After spending 6 days in Bolivia, he is now continuing his Latin American tour. He will visit Peru and Paraguay before returning to Rome.

Brazil

PCdoB Holds Congress, Raps Perestroyka

PY1305135588 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 May 88 p A-4

[Text] The seventh congress of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB) opened yesterday with strong criticism of "perestroyka" and the characterization of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a "worthless man." This congress is being held at the Beboucas Convention Center, and it is the first congress to convene after the legalization of the PCdoB.

In the "political report," which was prepared by Joao Amazonas, 76, national president of the party, the dismissal of Gorbachev as "a shameless defender of capitalism" stands in contrast to the praise for Albania, "a country where socialism lives and flourishes."

As an example of the "great accomplishments" in that country, the PCdoB notes "the supply of drinking water to all towns through a pipeline system." Albania is a European country of 26,748 square km and nearly 3 million people.

Joao Amazonas defined "perestroyka" to FOLHA as "a desperate attempt by the revisionists to save the antisocialist system of the Soviet Union."

However, the opening session of the seventh congress of the PCdoB was not entirely devoted to extolling the Stalinist Albanian regime; it also criticized president Sarney and the Workers Party (PT). Moreover, party President Joao Amazonas stated at this session that "the vicious attack on the maximum leader in the period of socialist construction is in fact an irate attack on the dictatorship of the proletariat."

For Amazonas, President Jose Sarney "represents nothing in Brazil." According to him, Congress should reaffirm a line of resolute opposition against the federal government. To overcome the "profound political crisis, the PCofB proposed that a "broad, democratic, and progressive front" be created.

The PCofB defends the inclusion of the PT in that front, but the "political report" mentioned this party as "the main representative of social democracy in Brazil." This position of accepting the PT participation in this front stands in opposition to the fervor with which the report defends the PCofB and Marxism-Leninism. As far as Amazonas is concerned, the Democratic Labor Party (PDT) has in recent years gotten close to "a populist line."

In the upcoming November municipal elections, the PCdoB will run its own candidates in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Maceio. "In the other large cities, our intention is to enter into political agreements," Amazonas affirmed. In Sao Paulo the PCdoB candidate will be Luiz Paulino, the regional administrator of the Freguesia do O [not further identified] during the Mario Covas administration.

The opening session was attended by representatives of the Marxist-Leninist parties of Albania, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Canada, and Peru. Today the 435 PCdoB delegates will continue the discussion of the document prepared by Joao Amazonas.

Chile

Pinochet on Opposition Politicians, Plebiscite

PY1305144388 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet has declared that some politicians only represent decay, despair, and desolation, and live in the obscure past, which they irresponsibly seek to restore.

Pinochet made this statement at the formal opening of the fifth annual period of sessions of the Socioeconomic Council [CES] held at the Jose Joaquin Purieto hall in La Moneda Palace.

In addition to noting the praiseworthy task fulfilled by the CES in its capacity as advisory body, Pinochet said that concern over government affairs is not and cannot be the exclusive prerogative of the political parties or of those who have a special devotion to power.

The chief of state said: The merit of this government and the system it has created, which is not yet completed, is probably the fact that the Chilean citizenry and not the state have been the main protagonists of this process.

Pinochet then referred to the opposition that only talks about negative issues and distorts reality. Pinochet said:

[Begin Pinochet recording] Those politicians only represent decay, despair, and desolation, and live in the obscure past, which they irresponsibly seek to restore. [end recording]

We in charge, said Pinochet, talk about the future, maintain the hope for liberty, and want to continue building a greater, more just, and better Chile. The president also referred to the importance of the challenge Chileans will face shortly.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Today's challenge is (?necessary). The upcoming plebiscite is one of the most important events in Chilean history because it will decide the country's future. This is our goal, gentlemen, and I invite you to share it. Viva Chile! [end recording]

On the occasion President Pinochet voiced his gratitude to the outgoing CES members and welcomed the newcomers.

Carvajal on Armed Forces, Papal Mediation

PY1405172588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal has called the criticism of equipping of the Armed Forces pure demagoguery.

Minister Carvajal made this statement at the end of a luncheon on board the Ecuadoran training vessel "Guayas" that was also attended by President Augusto Pinochet at the invitation of Ecuadoran Ambassador Cesar Valdivieso.

At the end of the reception, Minister Carvajal praised the relationship between Chile and Ecuador and also spoke of internal issues.

Vice Adm Carvajal emphatically rebutted the criticism of equipping the Armed Forces, stating:

[Begin Carvajal recording] The latest fashion of some demagogues is to say—for example, in the case of the money spent on the helicopters the Navy is purchasing—that hundreds of thousand of houses could be built instead, or that money spent on the Armed Forces could be spent on building schools or highways. This is pure demagoguery. We are perfectly aware that the Chilean Armed Forces are not a luxury or anything of the sort. We have the minimum equipment necessary for effective deterrence. You know about the recent problems we have had with our neighbors, and in order to dissuade other countries from being tempted one must have trained Armed Forces with the minimum necessary equipment. I could tell those demagogues that, yes, we could have built many schools, houses, and other social projects with all the money the terrorists have wasted by blowing up high-tension towers and destroying buses, buildings, and human beings. This is a real waste. Chile should have been spared this waste in order to be able to grow. [end recording]

The defense minister also referred to Pope John Paul II's statement on the need to find a solution to Bolivia's landlocked problem.

Asked by the media about this, Minister Carvajal said:

[Begin Carvajal recording] I do not believe that what you have said is right. The holy father has been asked to mediate, but mediation is not appropriate in this case. It is used when two countries raise an issue. We have repeatedly stated that we do not have border problems with Bolivia because we have signed a treaty in this regard that is fully in force. This treaty established the current border, and if Bolivia wants to improve its situation in any way, we are willing to hold direct, bilateral talks with them. No mediation, arbitration, or intervention by a third country is necessary. [end recording]

Upon leaving the "Guayas," Minister Carvajal praised the relationship traditionally maintained by Chile and Ecuador.

Official Favors Plebiscite Free of Exceptions

PY1205200188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1508 GMT 12 May 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 12 May (EFE)—Chilean Army Major General Sergio Badiola, the intendant (governor) of the Santiago Metropolitan Region, personally believes it would be "ideal" if the upcoming plebiscite were held in an atmosphere free of any state of exception.

The high-ranking officer met with foreign journalists last night and said, however, that many times a state of exception might be needed precisely to guarantee the citizenry's right to cast their vote.

The following states of exception are currently in force in Chile: "the state of emergency" provided for by the permanent articles of the current Constitution, and the

"state of threat to domestic order" decreed by the chief of state in compliance with the transitory articles of the Constitution, which was enacted by the military regime in 1981.

The lifting of these two states of exception, which were decreed by the government and which are, together, similar to the "state of siege," is precisely one of the conditions demanded by the opposition, to be able to regard the plebiscite as legitimate. [passage omitted]

Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange, on 16 March, was more emphatic, stating that the constitutional states of exception "will not be in force during the plebiscite."

General Stange said that "this is a personal opinion, and although there is still a lot of time ahead of us, this is what I believe."

Appeals Court Confirms Almeyda Sentence

PY1405182788 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 May 83

[Text] The Santiago Court of Appeals has confirmed a sentence of 541 days in prison against Socialist leader Clodomiro Almeyda, who is charged with supporting violence and terrorism. The court decision confirms the sentence previously passed down by trial judge Sergio Valenzuela Patino.

Pablo Lagos, one of Almeyda's defenders, has announced that he will appeal the court's decision next week.

Almeyda is charged with violating Article No 1, Clause 13 of Law No 18,314, which makes support for violence and terrorism illegal.

The constitutional court had previously sentenced Clodomiro Almeyda for the same crime.

The Copiapo court has also sentenced Almeyda for illegal entry into the country.

Ecuador

Roldosist Party Challenges Election Results

PA1305214488 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1816 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Quito, 13 May (DPA)—Today the Ecuadoran Roldosist Party [PRE], which backed the presidential candidacy of populist leader Abdala Bucaram, challenged the validity of the results of last Sunday's presidential elections in Ecuador that resulted in the election of Social Democrat Rodrigo Borja.

The challenge announced by PRE Deputy Director Oscar Celleri was based on "a number of irregularities" and "scientific fraud," presumably committed during the organization of the polling tables and in the tallying of votes.

"The elections were fraudulent," Celleri said. However, he did not specify when his party would file an official challenge before the Supreme Elecoral Court.

The electoral results, which showed Borja ahead by approximately 190,000 votes, were accepted by Bucaram the night of the election, when he also made a call to "defend democracy" and to support the elected government.

However, the PRE National Command, which met today without Bucaram, decided to challenge the results of Sunday's election. In addition, it proclaimed Bucaram, 36, "the moral winner" of the election and decided to announce his candidacy "as of now" for the Ecuadoran 1992 presidential elections.

Paraguay

'No Obstacles To Prevent' Papal Meeting

PY1405150488 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 14 May 88 p 1

["Text" of Foreign Ministry Note No DM-86 addressed to Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Jorge Zur from Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar; dated 13 May]

[Text] Your Excellency:

I have the honor of addressing Your Excellency to answer nunciature note No 555 of 12 May that refers to the meeting with the Builders of Society that is to take place during the visit of his holiness the pope. In answering, I wish to inform Your Excellency that representatives of the government and the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference [CEP] have held a meeting at your request. During this meeting they discussed everything related to the above meeting, which has been included on the pope's agenda, in order to clarify its meaning and who will be responsible for it.

The following people participated for the government: Ezequiel Gonzalez Alsina, president of the Senate; Carlos A. Ortiz Ramirez, minister of education and worship; J. Eugenio Jacquet, minister of justice and labor; and Conrado Pappalardo Zaldivar, director of state ceremonies. The following participated for the church: Msgr Felipe Santiago Benitez, vice president of the CEP; and Msgr Jorge Livieres Banks, CEP secretary general.

A frank and cordial dialogue permitted the clarifying of objectives and demonstrated the common desire to overcome any obstacle that could prevent the meeting from taking place. The bishops reaffirmed the pastoral nature of the planned meeting with the Builders of Society, and they indicated that the CEP will be resposible for organizing the meeting in accordance with the religious nature of the pope's visit and with the specific objectives of the meeting.

For their part, the government representatives indicated that in honor of the much-desired visit of his holiness, whose essential role merits every kind of attention, and of the intelligent steps of the apostolic nuncio, everything has been overcome. Therefore, with the clarification they have received, there are no obstacles to prevent the meeting with the Builders of Society from taking place.

I take this opportunity to renew the assurance of my most high and distinguished consideration.

Carlos Augusto Saldivar, [Foreign] Minister

Peru

List of New Appointees to Cabinet Announced

PY1405035188 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0338 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] We have just received the list of the new cabinet members: president of the Council of Ministers and minister of the President, Armando Villanueva del Campo; minister of health, Luis Pinillos; minister of economy, Cesar Robles Freyre; minister of the interior, Amdiral [as heard] Juan Soria; minister of foreign affairs, Luis Gonzalez Posadas; minister of transportation and communications, General Francisco Maury; minister of fisheries, Deputy Romulo Leon Alegria; and minister of industry, Guillermo Arteaga.

The rest of the ministers were ratified in their posts.

Pope John Paul II Arrives in Lima 14 May

PY1405231488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 2305 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we can see the hand of John Paul II coming out of the Peruvian Airlines plane, and here he is, the vicar of Christ. You can now see the pilgrim pope on the screens of your TV sets. He has come to us. Welcome John Paul II. Peru greets you, hails you, and awaits your message of peace, harmony, and hope. The pope has now greeted Peruvian President Alan Garcia Perez and his wife, Pilar Nores de Garcia. This is a deeply moving moment; Pope John Paul has set foot on Peruvian soil. The pope is among us.

Garcia Welcoming Remarks

PY1505012888 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 2308 GMT 14 May 88

[Speech by President Alan Garcia welcoming Pope John Paul II upon his arrival at the Air Force Group Eight military base in Callao—live]

[Excerpts] Holy Father, you, a pilgrim, have come back to strengthen our brotherly feelings. You bring the warmth of mankind, and your voice calls us to important things. Thus, petty things lose their meaning and we feel moved, once again, by the profound significance of God's deeds. [passage omitted]

Holy Father, we possess few material things, but we have the wealth of the spirit and the strength of faith because, in this our fatherland, despite the efforts that have been made, there is still a lot of hunger, a lot of sickness, and a great deal of egoism. Change is very difficult, and sometimes we sin through arrogance, the conviction that we can do everything.

Suddenly, truth makes us feel so insignificant. When we see the weak with their crosses and their faith, we are ashamed because the faith of the poor amid their poverty and of the sick amid their pain is greater than our own.

Blessed is Peru because of its faith, because without it it would plunge into despair, hate, and ambition. God loves the poor, but He does not want them to remain poor to the point of humiliation and degradation. Thus, our people want to overcome their problems, but the struggle is marked by our conviction that progress cannot be solely material.

Our people struggle to extol toil, through which man finds himself. They know that they have a right to use the things that God has created. Thus, as Christians, we want to free our country from its position among the other poor countries in the world.

We do not believe in the cruelty that ties hungry peoples to nations that accumulate immense wealth. The arrogance of nuclear power and space domination is a meaningless Tower of Babel.

We reject the foreign debt and its usurious and unjust aspects. We are prepared to fulfill our duties, but we refuse to obey the laws of international egotism. We reaffirm our rights before the powerful of the world. We do not want to be an instrument in the hands of any power or any imperialism, either from the East or the West.

We want to be a Christian people with a right to freedom. We want to join other Christian Latin American people and talk to those who dominate us about returning to the ways of God. We believe in equality and in the duty of sharing. We believe in the common good and in the universal ownership of assets. We believe in justice because we are children of God.

We know that justice will not be done just because the people want it and through the efforts of the state. Justice will truly be done if we have a great deal of faith and if we are able to convince and open the hearts sick with injustice and greed, because justice means giving to the poor, but it also means giving to the rich the peace of being able to share the bread.

Holy Father, your presence in our country will awaken sweet feelings in all hearts and your words will reaffirm the value of life. Here you will be heard by those sick with hate, by those who kill and destroy. Speak to them, Father, with your sweet severity telling them to quench their hates. Speak to them because they are alone and, without knowing it, they need your affection and your faith. However, give us at the same time the firm assurance that democracy can defend the people through the strength of its laws. [passage omitted]

Those of us who govern Peru tell you out loud and before Christ: Look at our faith, look at the faith of the people, but look also at the sins, our sins. Forgive us for them.

May we be forgiven by those who feel hurt by our sins for we have not committed them out of evilness but rather because we tried to do too much too fast. But we have done so thinking about the poor and the bereaved, and that is our consolation. [passage omitted]

Hotel of Journalists Covering Pope Bombed

PY1405023688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0208 GMT 14 May 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 13 May (EFE)—A home-made bomb was hurled by alleged Shining Path members at a Lima hotel where journalists accompanying Pope Paul II on his tour will stay beginning tomorrow.

According to police, the bomb damaged the facade of the Crillon Hotel of Lima where the press center for the coverage of the pope's visit to Peru has been established.

Pope John Paul II will arrive in Peru tomorrow afternoon, from Bolivia. He will be here for 40 hours, and on 16 April he will depart for Paraguay, the last stop on his ninth tour to Latin America.

The bomb was hurled by a group of individuals who shouted Shining Path slogans. The Shining Path is a Maoist terrorist group that began its armed struggle in Peru 8 years ago.

This is the fifth attack carried out in Lima by the Shining Path in the past 24 hours. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Foreign Ministry Official Expelled From Chile

PY1205223388 Montevideo LA DEMOCRACIA in Spanish 6 May 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Our fellow party [National or Blanco Party] member Fernando Gonzalez Guyer, who is a Uruguayan Foreign Ministry official, was expelled from Chile last Sunday, 1 May, by the Chilean immigration police.

The Uruguayan Government—through Foreign Minister Barrios Tassano—has asked for an explanation and has summoned the Chilean ambassador to Uruguay to his office.

Gonzalez Guyer went to Chile to participate in a meeting of the Commission for Peace, Security, and Democracy [Comision Para la Paz, la Seguridad y la Democracia]. He intended to participate in the drafting of the preparatory documents for the upcoming meeting of this commission, scheduled for June 1988 in Montevideo. [passage omitted]

Gonzalez Guyer was expelled without any explanation whatsoever. He was just told that he was banned from entering Chile. [passage omitted]

Agreement To Fish Near Falklands Sought

PY1305160488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0400 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Montevideo, 12 May (EFE)—Today sources at the Uruguayan Ship Builders Association stated that Uruguayan fishing companies are studying the possibility of obtaining British permits to fish in the Malvinas Islands area if they fail to achieve a fishing agreement with Argentina by the Southern Hemisphere summer.

Americo Deambrosis, president of the Uruguayan Ship Builders Association, has told Montevideo newspapers that "it is urgent for us to achieve this agreement because fish migrate to the south in the summer."

Through the bilateral treaty presently in force, ships from the two countries are allowed to fish in Uruguayan territorial waters and in Argentine waters, but there are no schools of fish in this area from December to March.

Deambrosis said Uruguayan industrialists need resources throughout the year.

The Uruguayan fishing fleet, comprising 53 deep-sea fishing vessels, is not allowed to fish in territorial waters during the summer. Therefore, their fishing capacity is diminished by 25 to 30 percent during these months.

In the last few months, two Uruguayan fishing ships have been captured and fined by Argentine authorities for fishing in Argentine jurisdictional waters.

Deambrosis said "through the mediation of the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry, each ship paid the minimum fine of $50,000, which for us is quite a lot of money."

Through diplomatic channels, Argentine authorities have reported that the next Uruguayan fishing ship to be captured in Argentine waters will be charged the maximum fine of $700,000.

The progoverment newspaper EL DIA reports that Deambrosis said Uruguayan ship builders are striving to achieve an agreement with Argentina similar to the one obtained by the USSR and Bulgaria. Those two countries "have gotten fishing licenses in exchange for granting their diplomatic solidarity regarding the Malvinas issue."

Deambrosis added: "An agreement of this nature would surely stipulate that we will not be allowed to fish in the British exclusion zone surrounding the Malvinas Islands."

The information provided by the Uruguayan shipbuilders confirms a report published by the London newspaper THE FINANCIAL TIMES, which states Uruguay might withdraw its support for Argentina regarding the Malvinas because of the fishing issue.

However, Ope Pasquet Iribarne, the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry under secretary, has denied the London reports by stating: "The Uruguayan Goverment will not withdraw its support for Argentina regarding its claim to the Malvinas Islands."